

U.S., Soviets in new talks

GENEVA (R) — The United States and the Soviet Union began a new effort on Monday to resolve sharp differences over nuclear testing, with superpower experts seeking to clear the way for full-scale negotiations, spokesmen for both sides said. The experts met at the Soviet diplomatic mission to start a fifth round of talks aimed at removing obstacles to the resumption of negotiations on curbing atomic tests. The talks should last two or three weeks, the spokesmen said. It was their first meeting since U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze discussed nuclear testing and other arms control issues during a Moscow meeting in mid-April. The experts were led by Robert Barker, assistant to the U.S. secretary of defence for atomic energy, and Andromik Petrosyants, chairman of the Soviet State Committee on the Utilization of Atomic Energy. The experts opened their talks in July last year and the discussions have been deadlocked from the outset. Moscow wants negotiations to be aimed at a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty while Washington wants to focus on new verification measures for two unratified nuclear testing treaties from the 1970s.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تيمز يومية مستقلة تحت إشراف المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Iranian shelling kills 13 in Basra

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Thirteen Iraqi civilians were killed and 46 others were injured when Iranian artillery shelled the Iraqi port city of Basra on Monday, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said. The shelling, which targeted at residential areas, also resulted in the destruction of many houses in Basra, INA said. INA also said Iraqi forces repulsed an Iranian naval attack on its southern deep water terminal in the Gulf and destroyed 18 Iranian gunboats in a five-hour battle. A high command communique said Iran attacked the disused terminal, 20 kilometres from the Iranian-occupied Fao oil terminal at the northern tip of the Gulf, with 42 boats armed with 106-mm guns, rocket launchers and heavy machine guns. It said Iraqi boats and troops defending the terminal left 18 of the attacking ships on fire and the rest fled the scene. The terminal, used by Iraq as an observation post to monitor Iranian naval movements in the northern Gulf has been attacked several times before.

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King receives Lebanese official

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received Mr. Fuad Al Turk, secretary general of the Lebanese Foreign Ministry, who is currently on an official visit to Jordan. During the audience, which was attended by Lebanese Ambassador to Jordan Pierre Ziyade, King Hussein expressed Jordan's keen interest in safeguarding the sovereignty and unity of Lebanon.

Jordan, Albania to establish relations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Albania have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Monday. Petra did not give details.

6 Arabs escape from Gaza jail

GAZA (R) — Six Palestinians escaped from the main prison in Israeli-occupied Gaza overnight, Israeli sources said. They said a massive army and police search had been mounted. Israeli military censors prohibited Reuters from reporting details of the escape, search or identities of the prisoners.

Tunisian faces bombing charges in France

PARIS (R) — A 28-year-old Tunisian suspected of links with a pro-Israeli group in Lebanon was on Monday charged with complicity in the 1986 bombing of a Paris department store which killed seven people, judicial sources said. The sources named the man as Fouad Ali Salch, arrested in March along with seven other people suspected of involvement in a wave of Paris bombings in April and September last year that killed 13 people and injured more than 250. Mr. Salch was charged with complicity in the bombing outside the Tati store in central Paris on Sept. 17 last year, the sources added.

S. Africa refuses to retract expulsions

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The government refused Monday to reconsider the expulsions of two British television correspondents whose coverage of political unrest had challenged South Africa's censorship regulations, a high government official said. Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha said he would not deviate from his decision to expel Peter Sharp of Independent Television News and Michael Buzark of the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Yitzhak Shamir to visit Zaire

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir plans to visit Zaire, Liberia and perhaps a third African country on a trip that appears to be aimed at bolstering his political standing at home, Israeli officials said. Mr. Shamir was planning to visit Africa but gave no dates for the trip, expected to strengthen economic and military ties between Israel and Black Africa. News reports said he would go in June. The trip will help Mr. Shamir to show a business-as-usual attitude in the face of attempts by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to break up the coalition government over their differences on a Middle East peace conference, political analysts say.

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28 killed in apparent Iraqi missile attack on U.S. frigate

Baghdad expresses regret and promises thorough inquiry • Reagan vows to keep Gulf open for shipping

Combined agency dispatches

BAHRAIN — Twenty-eight American servicemen were killed and twenty-one others wounded in an apparent Iraqi missile attack on a U.S. frigate in the Gulf late Sunday and President Ronald Reagan vowed on Monday to keep the Gulf open to world shipping.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry said in Baghdad it was investigating the attack but it was not 100 per cent certain Iraqi pilots were to blame.

The guided-missile frigate USS Stark, one of a seven-ship American fleet in the Gulf, was hit by an Exocet air-to-ship missile about 130 kilometres from Bahrain about 9 p.m. Sunday night.

Reports from the U.S. naval headquarters said two Iraqi Mirage F-1 planes each fired a radar-guided Exocet at the frigate but only one scored a hit.

The Pentagon said the Stark issued two warnings to the Iraqi

aircraft before they fired the missiles. Lieutenant General Richard Burpee, director of operations for the joint chiefs of staff, told a news conference in Washington: "The ship saw the aircraft coming and issued two warnings."

He said he did not know what type of warning was issued but that he was sure it would have identified the warship as American. There was a standard phraseology for such warnings, he said.

He said the Pentagon still had no idea why the attack took place.

A White House official said Iraq had expressed "profound regret" at the missile attack and the Iraqis had suggested a joint investigation into the incident, which other officials said earlier was presumed to have been a mistake.

Vice-Admiral Henry Mustin told the news conference: "We have no indication that they knew they were firing at a U.S. vessel." He said it would have been illogical for them to attack an American ship in international waters given peaceful relations between Iraq and the United States.

He and Gen. Burpee pointed out that two tankers had been attacked further north in the Gulf some time earlier on Sunday.

Adm. Mustin said it was dark when the attack took place and the radar of the French-made Mirage jet that fired the missile would not be able to discriminate between a tanker and a warship on its radar screen.

Gen. Burpee said the Iraqi attacker had fired its missile from about 19 kilometres away from the Stark.

He said Iraqi fighters had not been seen so far south in the Gulf in more than six years of the war with Iran.

At the Pentagon, sources told AP the ship's crew did not try to shoot down either the attacking plane or its missile despite a minute's warning.

Mr. Reagan, in brief, nationally televised remarks, said he felt a "sense of concern and anger" and would report to the American people as soon as the facts are assembled.

He expressed condolences to the families of the dead men and said, "their loss and suffering will not be in vain."

The president said the Gulf remains "crucial" to U.S. interests.

"We have protested this attack

(Continued on page 3)

1 killed in 16th Israeli air raid on Lebanon this year

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Israeli warplanes attacked Palestinian bases on a hill-top near this southern port city, killing one fighter and wounding two others, police said.

They said the jets fired four missiles into an olive grove near the Mieh Mieh refugee camp, destroying a truck-mounted anti-aircraft gun and punching 15 small craters in the ground.

One witness said the dead fighter was blown to bits in the three-minute raid, Israel's 16th on Lebanon this year.

Fatch fighters fired anti-aircraft guns at the Israeli planes. Sidon residents said Israeli gunboats cruised offshore as ambulances and fire engines hurried to the scene of the raid.

Twelve people were killed and 48 wounded, almost all of them civilians, when Israeli planes bombed the sprawling Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp southeast of Sidon on May 8.

At least 45 people have been killed and about 120 wounded in four Israeli raids this month.

Shultz sees progress towards Middle East peace conference

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has said there has been progress towards arranging an international conference that could bring about Middle East peace talks between Israel and the Arabs.

"Now there recently has been progress toward such a negotiating format which would offer serious prospects of reaching an agreement between the parties on peace," he told 1,200 members of America's most powerful pro-Israel group.

But while Mr. Shultz said an international conference should be seriously explored, he insisted the United States would not go forward unless the divided Israeli government was united on the idea and unless the two allies were prepared to walk away if the conference failed.

"We believe... that Jordan is sincere and that a real opportunity has been presented for progress (but) we are not interested in disrupting Israeli politics in the process," he said.

"To the contrary, we will proceed only with the support of the government of Israel."

He also said the Soviet Union could play a constructive role in the peace process but so far has been a spoiler.

"Could the Soviet Union be a constructive presence? Yes, it could be and there have been some interesting developments recently. But are they now a constructive presence? No."

Mr. Shultz's address to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) annual meeting was the fullest public discussion of recent developments in the Middle East by a top U.S. policymaker.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has taken the lead in trying to get an international conference off the ground, putting him at odds with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and threatening to bring down their coalition government.

Mr. Peres, who is on a four-day trip to the United States to rally support for his position, held meetings with Mr. Shultz in New York on Saturday and Washington on Sunday and also addressed AIPAC and American Jewish leaders in New York.

In New York, Mr. Peres defended his timing in forcing a showdown last week with Mr. Shamir over the conference issue.

He also said he expected the United States to act as an intermediary to involve the Soviet Union in such a conference.

While clearly supportive of the

international conference idea, Mr. Shultz stressed on Sunday that "the president and I are not committed to an international conference and we are not asking others to commit themselves now to the idea."

"As long as we agree on that basic structure and we're ready to walk from the idea or walk away from the conference if it fails, then we can pursue this road without too great a risk."

"But we can only pursue it if we are able to do so in partnership with the government of Israel and we will make no moves unless we are assured of that," he said.

Mr. Shultz also said the United States supports a unified Jerusalem but would not move the U.S. embassy to the city as long as its status had not been resolved in negotiations between Israel and the Arabs.

Mr. Shultz, providing a rare official definition of the U.S. position toward Jerusalem, said that "there needs to be... a unified Jerusalem. Not cut up."

But Mr. Shultz added that "insofar as the nature, status, arrangements in that city is concerned, we think that in the end it has to be a matter of negotiation."

British parliament dissolved ahead of June 11 elections

LONDON (Agencies) — Queen Elizabeth II dissolved parliament on Monday and a 24-day election campaign officially got under way with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher the favourite to win an unprecedented third straight term in office.

The centrist Social Democratic-Liberal Party Alliance kicked off the campaign by publishing a manifesto it said would unite a class-ridden society, and was closely followed by the opposition Labour Party pledging a new deal for British women.

The queen signed the proclamation dissolving parliament after meeting with members of the Privy Council, the circle of eminent public figures who act as the monarch's advisers.

The ritual, dating back to the 17th century, was completed when the House of Lords, the non-elected upper chamber of parliament, affixed its seal to the royal proclamation.

The five-year-old alliance is challenging the hegemony of Britain's major blocs, the governing Conservatives and socialist Labourites.

Liberal leader David Steel and his Social Democrat partner David Owen told a news conference their programme would in-

roduce sweeping constitutional changes, including the virtual abolition of the House of Lords, devolve power to the regions and end the country's north-south and rich-poor divide.

Among the changes would be turning the mainly hereditary House of Lords into an elective assembly, ending the controversial Official Secrets Act which allows the government to suppress sensitive information, and a reform of the first-past-the-post electoral system which critics say is unfair and undemocratic.

An opinion poll published on Monday showed the Conservatives maintaining their commanding lead with 42 per cent support, 10 points ahead of Labour and 18 points ahead of the alliance. On election day, this would give an overall Conservative majority of 70 in the 650-seat House of Commons.

Mrs. Thatcher and Neil Kinnock, leader of the Labour Party, were to present their platforms Tuesday.

Mr. Kinnock, at a news conference, promised a ministry for women, declaring that women's rights have been eroded during the eight-year tenure of Mrs. Thatcher, Europe's first woman prime minister.

KING RECEIVES NEW AUB CHIEF: His Majesty King Hussein on Monday receives at Al Nadwa Palace Dr. Ibrahim Al Salti, who has been appointed as president of the American University of Beirut (AUB). Dr. Salti, a Jordanian, is the first Arab to be appointed as president of the AUB, the most prestigious university in the Middle East. The King congratulated Dr. Salti on his appointment. Attending the audience was Mr. Ali Ghandour (left), chairman of the Royal Jordanian airline and member of the AUB board of trustees (Petra photo)



Total number of registered voters set at 912, 011

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A total of 912,011 citizens have registered themselves as voters for the next parliamentary elections, Ministry of Interior Under-Secretary Ahmad Al Aqaleh announced on Monday.

The figure was announced after compiling registration figures from 700 voter registration centres which had been open for a 14-day period and closed Sunday evening, Mr. Aqaleh said.

The final figure shows that 82,001 citizens registered themselves during three and a half hours before the expiry of the deadline at 6 p.m. on Sunday. Figures available to the Jordan Times on Sunday showed that nearly 830,000 had registered by 3.30 p.m.

Mr. Aqaleh could not provide the exact number of eligible voters in the Kingdom, but, according to a senior official from the Department of Statistics, those registered by Sunday represented 81.7 per cent of the electorate.

The official said the total number of eligible voters — those of 19 years and above in age — was about 1,115,000 in the East Bank.

But other sources estimated the electorate at 1,176,000. With this figure, the number of the registered voters stood at 77.5 per cent of the electorate. These sources based their estimates on local and international reports on Jordan's population as of the end of 1986.

In either case, many senior officials and observers commented that the turnout for voters registration was "very high" when compared to earlier voter registrations in the Kingdom.

Amman Governorate, with nearly one third of the Kingdom's total population, registered the highest number of voters — 304,708, representing 33.4 per cent of the total number of those registered — followed by Irbid Governorate with 257, 140 (28.7 per cent), and Zarqa with 95,697 (10.4) per cent.

Following are the registration figures in the five other governorates and the three areas hosting Jordan's largest bedouin population.

Balqa Governorate — 84,143 — (nine per cent of the total number of registered voters); Karak Governorate — 57,093 (6.2 per cent); Maan Governorate — 25,865 (2.8 per cent); Mafraq Governorate — 18,818 (two per cent); Tafleh Governorate — 18,114 (one per cent); bedouins of the north — 22,521 (4.4 per cent); bedouins of the central region — 14,317 (1.5 per cent); and bedouins of the south — 14,595 (1.4 per cent).

For the first time, Palestinian refugee camps have been given seats in parliament according to the new electoral law, which was adopted last year. These seats are part of the 71 seats allocated to the West Bank in the enlarged 142-seat Lower House of Parliament.

According to figures available to the Jordan Times on Monday, the following number of the voters registered from the camps by Sunday, Al Wihdat — 19,130; Al Hussein — 8,961; Al Mahatta — 13,748; Al Talbikh — 1,793; Al Baqaa — 12,789; Hittin — 10,504; Zarqa — 53,638; Irbid — 10,952; Martyr Azmi Al Mufri camp — 8,290; Souf — 3,038; and Jerash — eight.

The decision also sparked student rallies Monday at two campuses, Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Haifa University, Israel Radio said, adding that both campus administrations threatened not to honour the decision.

The higher tuition fee would apply to 3,700 Arab students who study at the nation's six main campuses, where the combined student body numbers about 60,000.

Another 15,000 Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip study at five major universities in the occupied territories.

Israeli student union leader David Berman told Israel Radio he would challenge the cabinet decision in the supreme court.

The decision — backed by Mr. Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc and opposed by Labour — imposed new strains on their coalition government, already torn over the proposed conference.

Mr. Peres told a cabinet bid to participate in an international peace conference last week and has threatened to topple the government over the dispute.

The cabinet decision drew criticism from the Labour Party, and political analysts said it was another blow to the peace efforts of the party's leader, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

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Syrians arrest mastermind of 'nuisance' blasts in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — The mastermind of more than 100 minor bomb blasts in west Beirut since Syrian troops deployed there three months ago was arrested on Monday, Syria's military intelligence chief in Lebanon said.

Brigadier Ghazi Kanaan gave no details. Official sources say at least 35 people have been arrested on suspicion of involvement with the "nuisance" blasts.

The bombs, mostly sticks of dynamite thrown into pavement rubbish heaps, have caused few injuries but were a clear challenge to the Syrian drive to impose law and order on west Beirut.

Blast at French mission

A landmine exploded in the grounds of the French embassy in west Beirut on Monday but caused no casualties or major damage, embassy sources said.

They said the explosion was probably triggered by a falling tree branch hitting one of the landmines planted in the com-

munist official killed

In another development, unidentified gunmen killed a senior Lebanese Communist Party official as he walked in a west Beirut street, police said.

They said three gunmen in a car fired on Hassan Hamdan, 50, killing him instantly.

Mr. Hamdan was a lecturer at the Lebanese University, a prominent writer and a member of the central committee of Lebanon's pro-Moscow Communist Party, party sources said.

At least five communists have been killed in Lebanon in the wake of February's clashes in west Beirut between the Shi'ite Muslim Amal movement and leftist militias, including the communist militia.

Shultz confirms U.S. plans to sell F-15s to Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Secretary of State George Shultz has confirmed the United States plans to sell Saudi Arabia F-15 jet fighters to replenish its inventory.

The planned sale, first revealed Friday by congressional and administration sources, is expected to create controversy in Congress in light of recent revelations that Saudi Arabia contributed money to the contra rebels in Nicaragua at the request of the United States.

Although Saudi Arabia has denied it, congressional sources estimate that the kingdom gave the contra \$32.5 million.

The White House intends to inform Congress this week of the planned deal worth some \$500 million, congressional sources said.

"I think it is in our interest to make these sales to Saudi Arabia,

planes would be sent to Saudi Arabia to maintain its current inventory of 60 F-15s.

"It's not adding, it's a matter of maintenance of what's there," he said.

Jewish lobby to block sales

Meanwhile leaders of the most powerful pro-Israel group in the United States Monday vowed to fight the proposed sale of F-15 fighter jets to Saudi Arabia.

Robert Asher, the president of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), said: "We will oppose this sale."

He told 1,200 delegates to AIPAC's annual meeting that "arms sales are not a substitute for policy and do not advance the cause for peace."

Tom Dine, AIPAC's executive director, said the sale, the latest in a long line of proposed weapons deals with Arab coun-

tries, "sets back the search for peace which is at such a critical juncture."

He referred to intensified efforts by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to arrange an international peace conference format under which Israel and its Arab enemies would enter into direct negotiations.

AIPAC would like to avoid a confrontation with President Reagan and Mr. Shultz — two U.S. officials it considers especially supportive of Israel — "but we must oppose this arms sale," Dine said.

U.S. officials Sunday said Mr. Reagan would tell Congress soon about his plans to sell Saudi Arabia up to 15 replacement F-15 jet fighters.

Israel's allies in Congress are expected to oppose the sale on grounds that it could pose a danger to Israel.

Peres, Dobrynin hold talks

TEL AVIV (AP) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met with Soviet Ambassador to the United States Yuri Dobrynin in Washington, an Israeli official said Monday.

The official confirmed a report on Israel Radio that the meeting took place but declined to comment on what was discussed.

The radio quoted Peres as saying the Soviet representative told him the meeting was another proof of the process taking place and leading to the renewal of full relations between the Soviet Union and Israel.

Peres and Dobrynin met for more than an hour and a half at the home of World Jewish Congress leader Edgar Bronfman. Peres refused to meet Dobrynin at the Soviet embassy, the radio reported.

Peres said Dobrynin asked him to report on the latest developments in the peace process.

The Israeli government is split over whether to join an international peace conference which would include the Soviet Union and other members of the U.N. Security Council.

Peres backs the conference but says the Soviet Union can participate only if it renews diplomatic ties with Israel and lifts restrictions on Jewish emigration.

Moscow severed ties with Israel following the 1967 Middle East war when Israel occupied Arab territory.

But a thaw in relations began last summer when consular representatives of the two countries met for the first time in almost 20 years in Helsinki, Finland.

In recent months the Soviet government has freed several prominent Jewish activists and allowed more Jews to emigrate. The April total was 717, the highest figure in almost six years.

The radio quoted Peres as saying the Soviet representatives did not reply to questions he asked them. It did not elaborate but said Peres expected to receive answers in the future.

Austria starts trial of Vienna airport gunmen

VIENNA (R) — Two Palestinian guerrillas went on trial in Vienna Monday charged with carrying out an attack on the Israeli airline El Al nearly 17 months ago in which four people died.

Tawfik Ibn Chaovali, 27, and Mongi Ibn Saadouni, 28, members of Abu Nidal's Al Fateh (Revolutionary Command) Palestinian group, are accused of two murders and 87 attempted murders at Vienna's Schwechat Airport on Dec. 27, 1985.

The attack at an El Al check-in desk killed four, including one gunman, and injured 40. The two surviving gunmen are accused of only two murders as one passenger may have been killed by a security guard's bullet.

U.S. frigate becomes first casualty in superpower navy buildup in Gulf

By John Owen-Davies
Reuters

BAHRAIN — The U.S. frigate Stark, crippled by a missile attack in the Gulf, is the first casualty in a naval buildup by the superpowers to deter Iranian attacks on merchant shipping and Kuwait's oil lifeline.

Ironically, the Stark was hit by an Iraqi missile some 85 miles north-east of Bahrain in what Washington called an "inadvertent incident." Three crewmen were killed and at least 25 were missing, U.S. officials said.

Shipping sources said the guided missile frigate was one of at least seven U.S. warships patrolling the Gulf waterway, conduit for about 20 per cent of oil exports to the non-Communist world.

About 15 foreign warships were now in the Gulf, including four Soviet vessels and ships from Britain and France, the sources said.

The United States and the Soviet Union strengthened their naval presence in the last two months as tension escalated with Iran persistently attacking shipping going to or from Kuwait, an Arab emirate and ally of Iraq at the head of the Gulf.

Kuwait, which exports all its oil through the Gulf, sought to safeguard its oil exports by chartering tankers from the Soviet Union and negotiating to register half its own 22-tanker fleet under the American flag.

The moves were calculated to gain the naval protection of the superpowers.

But diplomatic sources said the crippling strike on the Stark raised questions about the ability of the superpowers to guarantee the safety of merchant shipping under their flags.

Iran, however, did not have the same firepower as Iraq and was not armed with the sea-skimming French Exocet missiles which hit the Stark, the sources added.

Shipping sources said the attack occurred some 275 miles away from Iraq in an area where Iraqi planes did not usually operate. They have concentrated their raids along Iran's Gulf coastline, hitting tankers taking Iranian oil out of the Gulf.

"This is the most serious development in the tanker war," one Gulf shipping source said.

The so-called "tanker war" began in 1984 as Iran and Iraq started attacking each other's ships in an effort to choke off oil exports that fund the war machines of both countries.

Since then, more than 200 vessels have been hit — some 30 this year. Iran has zeroed in on shipping bound to or from Kuwait, accusing the emirate of providing neighbouring Iraq with material support in the 6½-year-long war.

Tehran has backed its assault with renewed threats to make the Gulf impassable to shipping. On Friday, Iran said it would not hesitate to attack U.S.-flag ships.

The warning was made a day after Richard Murphy, a U.S. assistant secretary of state, ended a tour of Gulf Arab states, including Iraq but not Iran. He declared Washington's intention to take strong action against any attacks

on its ships.

Sunday night's strike occurred hours after the Soviet Navy Agency TASS reported a Soviet oil tanker had been damaged by a sea mine off Kuwait. It was escorted by a Soviet frigate.

Gulf shipping sources said the tanker, the Marshal Chuykov, was the second of three Soviet tankers chartered by Kuwait to ship oil. The first left Kuwait 10 days ago.

Although the Stark was the first foreign warship hit in the Gulf, several other "active" incidents have been reported.

Shipping sources said helicopters from U.S. warships in the southern Gulf had chased away, on at least three occasions, Iranian helicopters preparing to attack neutral shipping.

Last January, the U.S. Defence Department said a merchant vessel, believed to be Greek, fired a missile which narrowly missed patrolling American helicopter.

Washington normally maintains a fleet of five warships in the Gulf under the flag of the Middle East Force (MEF), now the most visible U.S. military presence in the Middle East.

The force, led by a rear-admiral, is reinforced in times of tension by vessels from a carrier battle group stationed in the northern Arabian Sea outside the Strait of Hormuz, the entrance to the Gulf.

The United States has stationed warships in the Arabian Sea since the 1979 U.S. hostage crisis in Iran.

Damaged Soviet tanker towed into Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Marine experts Monday inspected damage to a Soviet tanker towed into Kuwait after a mine tore a large hole in its hull, marine sources said.

They said the 38,792-tonne Marshal Chuykov was taken Sunday night to Mina Al Ahmadi, a key oil refining and export port 32 kilometres south of Kuwait city.

"She's undergoing underwater inspection. I expect a decision will have to be taken as to whether the tanker might need repairs elsewhere in the Gulf," one source said.

Shipping sources said the vessel, one of three Soviet tankers chartered by Kuwait to carry its

oil exports, had entered the Gulf escorted by a Soviet Matya-type frigate.

The frigate is one of four Soviet warships the sources say are now operating in the Gulf region.

The Soviet News Agency TASS said Sunday there were no casualties aboard the Marshal Chuykov after the mine ripped a large hole in the bottom of the tanker 35 miles off the Kuwaiti coast. It was in ballast heading for Kuwait to take on a cargo.

Drifting mines from the northern Gulf war zone have posed a recurring problem for shipping and states in the area.

Kuwait chartered the Soviet

vessels and is also negotiating to sail 11 of its own 22-tanker fleet under the U.S. flag to protect its oil exports from Iranian attack.

Iran this year has attacked 17 vessels associated with Kuwait in retaliation for the northern Gulf emirate's support for Iraq in the war, now well into its seventh year.

Another Soviet tanker, the Marshal Bagration, left 10 days before the mine incident with the first cargo of Kuwaiti crude shipped under a superpower flag.

Meanwhile Newsweek magazine said Sunday Kuwait will transfer 11 of its oil tankers to U.S. holding companies under a new Reagan administration plan designed to protect the ships from Iranian attack while navigating the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

Newsweek, quoting unnamed administration officials, said the plan, which involves about half Kuwait's tanker fleet, is also designed to head off further involvement in the area by the Soviet Union.

Iran has repeatedly struck at Kuwaiti shipping to retaliate for Kuwait's support of Iraq in the Gulf war.

Meanwhile, Iran is close to completing a new 965 kilometre pipeline that will protect its oil shipments from attack in the Gulf war, Newsweek said.

Gaza's Arabs enter Israel daily in search of work

By Paul Taylor
Reuters

GAZA — It is 3.50 a.m. The streets of Gaza are deserted. The muezzin's call to the mosques and the sound of prayer are heard in the night.

A veiled moon casts an eerie light on the ruined railway station Sijaiya Square. The last train left in 1967 for Egypt, just before Israeli troops occupied the 10-km Gaza Strip.

Slowly, the stage fills with the characters in a human drama — the daily exodus of tens of thousands of Palestinian men to low-paid jobs or in search of uncertain casual labour in Israel.

While Israelis are still abed, the Arab labourers who build their houses, tend their gardens, pick their fruit and sweep their streets, mill around Sijaiya Square, boarding buses, taxis or shared cars for the trek north to work.

"One more for Kfar Sava, Ra'anana, Herzliya," calls a taxi driver bound for the plush northern suburbs of Tel Aviv 75 kilometres away, built partly with cheap labour from Gaza and the occupied West Bank.

An estimated 60,000 Gazans, mostly Palestinian refugees, work each day in Israel. According to the occupier's law, they may not stay overnight in the Jewish state, where the older among them were born.

Nevertheless thousands of Gazans sleep illegally in Israel, on kitchen floors, in broom cupboards, in the underground car parks of luxury hotels along Tel Aviv's seafont promenade.

Those who obey the law and return to Gaza each night spend up to a third of their daily wage on transport to and from work.

The return bus ride to Tel Aviv costs five or six shekels (\$3.10-3.75). The journey in an eight-seater "stretch" Mercedes taxi to the northern suburbs costs 10 shekels (\$6.25).

Gazan workers earn 20 to 30

shekels (\$12.50 to 18.75) a day in Israel, sometimes less, occasionally a little more.

They may not join trade unions and are not entitled to the health care and welfare benefits enjoyed by Israeli workers.

"I make 20 shekels (\$12.50) a day. I have six kids in school. How can we pay for the clothes, the books, the pencils?" asks Jamil, a resident of Gaza's beach refugee camp, who works as a cook in the Israeli town of Rehovot.

At 4.50 a.m. the exodus is in full swing. Blaring horns drown the muezzin. Buses, cars and taxis jam the main street to Israel three abreast. When the space runs out on the road, they drive over the pavements.

At the roadside, a group of stocky men in their 40s, wearing traditional chequered keffiyeh head-dresses, take off their shoes and bow in prayer before boarding the bus to Tel Aviv.

It is Ramadan, the Muslim month of dawn-to-dusk fasting. The many sandwich and falafel (fried chick-pea) stands which normally add colour and pungent smells to Sijaiya Square are closed.

Only a couple of shops discreetly sell food from behind half-closed shutters.

There are few women, all veiled and swathed in full-length gowns, in the square and none on the buses to Israel.

"Ramle, Lid (Lod)," a bus driver shouts the names of towns that were once thriving Arab centres in Palestine and are now modern Israeli cities near Ben Gurion Airport.

Some of the Gazans do not know if they will find a day's work in Israel. They travel to pick-up points on the main highways around Tel Aviv and wait for an Israeli foreman in search of casual labourers. The system is illegal but tolerated.

"Gaza is Israel's Soweto," says a United Nations relief worker,



A view of one of the refugee camps in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip where thousands of uprooted Palestinians live under worst conditions of poverty (file photo)

drawing a comparison with the South African black town which provides cheap labour, deprived of political and residence rights, for Johannesburg.

By 5.30 a.m., a grey fog signals daybreak in Gaza. Most of the men have left. There is hardly any industry in the Gaza Strip, just a little work for craftsmen and fruit-pickers.

The U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) is the biggest employer in the strip, one of the most densely-populated areas in the world.

The official population is 550,000 but UNRWA estimates the real figure is between 600,000 and 650,000 and growing fast.

By the year 2000, there will be almost a million people in Gaza.

At 5.45 a.m. the buses have gone. Anyone who still hopes to work in Israel now must take a taxi.

Young boys, under eight years old, hawk the first newspapers of

the day.

Al Fajr, a Palestinian daily printed in Arab Jerusalem, headlines the Israeli cabinet's failure to agree on proposals for a peace conference on the Middle East conflict.

"It doesn't make any difference," says hat-seller Abu Mahmoud. "Nothing's going to change."

On the pavement he displays keffiyehs, round cotton Israeli hats, Mexican-style straw sombreros and peaked American baseball caps to shield Gaza workers from a fierce sun.

At 6 a.m. the sun, still faint, is just beginning to come up on Sijaiya Square as the fog lifts. The last few workers are scrambling into taxis.

Ahmad, an optimist, is one of the last to leave. "You can make good money in Tel Aviv, if you're lucky," he says. "Maybe even 40 shekels (\$25). Of course most people earn less."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION		18:05	Sports Roundup
		18:30	News
		19:00	News Desk
		19:30	Date with a Star
		20:00	Evening Show
		21:00	News Summary
		21:30	Evening Show Cont.
		22:00	News Summary
		22:30	Evening Show Continual
		23:00	News Summary
		23:30	Evening Show Cont.
		24:00	Close Down
PROGRAMME ONE		BBC WORLD SERVICE	
14:00	Kvarn	630, 720, 1323 KHz	
14:10	Programme Review	07:00 Newsdesk 07:30 A Night to Remember 07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial News 08:00 World News 08:05 24 Hours: News Summary 08:30 The Week 09:00 Newsdesk 09:30 Counterpoint 10:00 World News 10:05 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30 Liberty 11:00 World News 11:05 Reflections 11:15 Training for Tomorrow 11:30 Best on Record 12:00 World News 12:05 British Press Review 12:15 Good News 12:30 Detective 12:40 News Summary: Questions of Faith 12:50 Half Hour Drama 14:00 World News 14:05 News About Britain 14:15 Training for Tomorrow 14:30 Album Time 14:40 Radio Newswatch 15:15 Hots 15:45 Sports Round-up 16:00 World News 16:05 24 Hours: News Summary 16:30 You Ain't Heard Nothing Yet! 16:45 News Summary: Outlook 17:45 18:05 News Summary: 18:05 Kings of Swing 19:00 World News 19:05 Commercial 19:15 On the Road with William Shakespeare 19:30 Performing Early Music 20:15 The History of Radio Comedy	
14:20	Children's programme		
14:35	Ramadan Conte		
14:40	Local Puzzles		
15:10	Cooking Programme		
15:25	Arabic series		
16:00	Religious Series (Arabic)		
16:30	Religious Series (Arabic)		
17:00	Religious Programme		
17:40	Arabic Series		
18:40	Local competition		
19:00	Religious Programme		
20:00	News in Arab		
20:30	Arabic Series		
21:30	Arabic Series		
22:00	Tomorrow's programme		
22:30	Arabic Series		
23:00	News summary in Arab		
23:10	Arabic series		
23:50	Arabic film		
PROGRAMME TWO			
18:00	Services on the metropolitan		
18:30	Le Cœur de l'As		
19:00	News in French		
19:15	Jour: centre le ciel et la terre		
19:30	News in Hebrew		
19:45	Various		
19:55	News in Hindi		
20:30	You Again		
21:10	Yesterday's Dreams		
22:30	News in English		
23:00	The Unknown War (documentary)		
23:10	Bergeret		
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Crown Prince praises work of JSPRA

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday expressed appreciation for the efforts made by members of the Jordan Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents (JSPRA) to put an end to the daily problems of car accidents. In a message to Dr. Zuhair Malhas, president of the JSPRA, Prince Hassan expressed the hope that the society would embark on the necessary steps aimed at enforcing the recommendations of the symposium on road accidents, which has recently been held in Amman.

South Jordan Valley families receive aid

KARAK (Petra) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) has started distributing cash assistance to needy families in the south Jordan Valley. The Fund will distribute a total amount of JD 16,588 to 406 families for the months of March and April. Director of Social Development at Karak Governorate Abdul Rahman Ma'aitah said on Monday.

France gives books to Jordan library

AMMAN (Petra) — The French cultural attaché in Amman, Henry Lebreton, Monday presented the General Antiquities Department (GAD) library with 20 volumes on archaeological sites in Jordan and elsewhere in the world. The French contribution comes within the framework of the French-Jordanian cooperation in the archaeological field. A total amount of FF 10,000 has been allocated for providing the GAD library with scientific books, under the cooperation agreement between both countries.

Jordan seeks S. Korean investment

SAHAB (Petra) — Director General of the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation Fayez Suheimat Monday received the South Korean ambassador to Jordan Dong Soon Park and discussed with him prospects for encouraging Korean companies to invest in projects in Jordan. Mr. Park visited a number of factories and expressed satisfaction at the integrated services provided at the estate.

Jordan, Oman confer on trade

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher conferred here Monday with Mr. Ahmad Abdul Nabi Mackeh, under secretary of the Omani Ministry of Industry, on trade and economic relations between Jordan and Oman. The meeting was in the presence of the Under Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Mr. Mohammad Saqqaf and Director of the Amman Financial Market Hisham Al Sabbagh, as well as Oman's Ambassador to Jordan Khamis Ibn Hamad Ibn Al Bataishi.

Cabinet approves loan for Aqaba station

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has approved a \$70 million loan agreement from the World Bank to finance the second stage of the Aqaba thermal power station of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA).

Labour Ministry issues warning

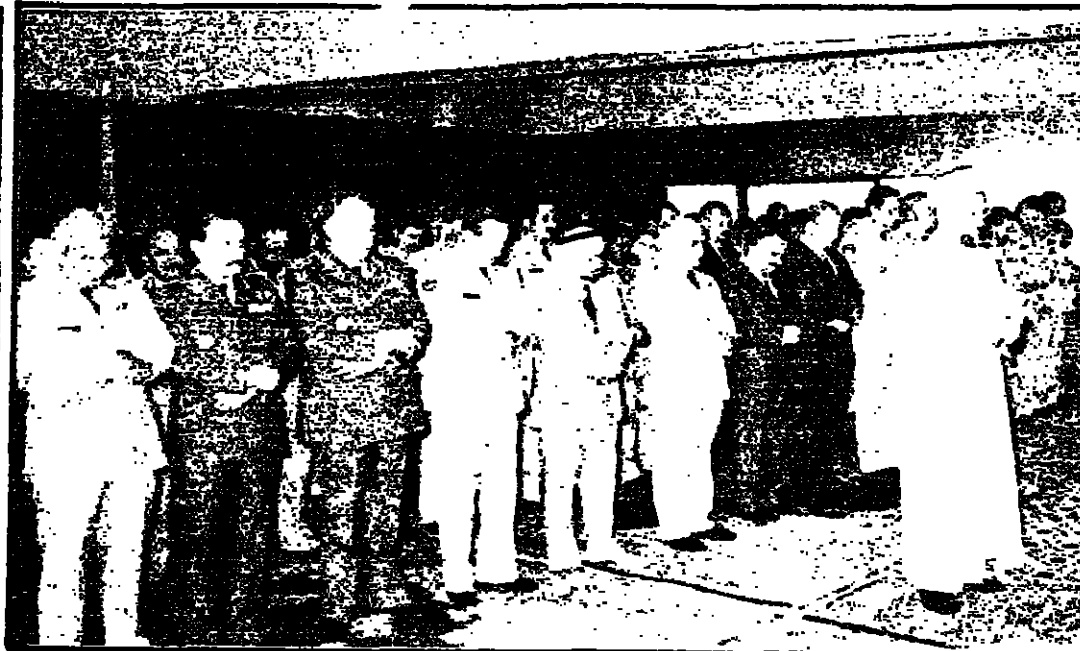
MAADDI (Petra) — The Labour Ministry's Employment Office here has issued warnings to five different businesses in the Jordan Valley for violating regulations governing the employment of non-Jordanian workers. Office director Jamal Khuram said that the warnings were issued during inspection tours made by his office to different businesses in the region. The M'addi office, he said, issued 375 work permits to non-Jordanians during the past month, and these included 40 non-Arab workers. He said that out of 99 Jordanian job seekers, 34 have been able to find employment with the help of his office.

Egyptian group meets Central Bank head

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Hussein Al Qasbi and his deputy Mr. Maher Shukri Monday received a visiting delegation from Egyptian Banks led by Dr. Mahmoud Abdul Aziz, member of the board of directors of the Federation of Egyptian Banks. The Egyptian delegation explained the new foreign exchange system introduced in Egypt on May 12. The new system is designed to attract more foreign currencies into the banking system. Mr. Qasbi stressed the necessity for further bolstering cooperation between Jordan and Egypt in the banking fields.

Sheikh Khayyat to leave for Morocco

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat will leave for Morocco today to take part in Islamic seminars and deliver lectures on religion. The visit is upon an invitation of the Moroccan Ministry of Awqaf which has organised a series of lectures and seminars during the month of Ramadan under the patronage of King Hassan II.



KING HOSTS IFTAR: His Majesty King Hussein Monday hosted an iftar banquet at Al Hussein Youth City. The banquet was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Fathi Abu Taleb and his aides. Also attending the banquet were directors and senior officers of the Armed Forces, Public Security, Civil Defence and General Intelligence departments. King Hussein and the guests performed Al Maghreb prayer.

Queen attends final performance of children's play before national tour

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday attended the final performance in Amman of the musical "Al Tareeq Al Khadra" which is produced by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation in cooperation with the Department of Culture and Arts.

Also attending were members of the royal family, the Board of Trustees of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, members of the

Higher National Committee for the Jerash Festival, and members of steering committees for the foundation's projects.

"Al Tareeq Al Khadra," which ran for two weeks last month at the Royal Cultural Centre, will now travel around Jordan to the different governorates. The musical has a cast of 25 children and six adults.

This production marks the be-

ginning of the Theatre-in-Education Project, a programme which brings together traditional stage skills and modern educational practices to promote child development in a manner that is both creative and entertaining. Other planned activities for this educational programme include training teachers in the techniques of children's play and workshop production, and education through drama.



Her Majesty Queen Noor arrives to attend the final performance of "Al Tareeq Al Khadra" at the Royal Cultural Centre on Monday, before the

children's musical goes on an educational tour of the Kingdom (Petra photo)

Bulgaria, Jordan discuss foodstuffs trade

AMMAN (Petra) — Bulgaria's Ambassador to Jordan Yantcho Demirev met in Amman Monday with Mr. Ghazi Abu Hassan director general of the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (AMPCO) of Jordan to discuss an exchange of agricultural products between Jordan and Bulgaria.

The two men also discussed land and air transport of agricultural products between their respective countries. AMPCO takes charge of all matters concerning the purchase and marketing of agricultural products and marketing Jordanian crops abroad. AMPCO director Sunday

announced that the company was continuing to pay for crops it is purchasing from local farmers every three weeks.

These crops are either marketed in Jordan or sold abroad. AMPCO pays competitive prices to the local producers in a bid to encourage production.

Ministry signs contract with local companies for 9 schools

Plans under way to end 'double shift' in schools

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education Monday signed agreements with local companies to establish nine preparatory and secondary schools in various parts of Jordan at a cost of JD 2.25 million.

The new schools, which will be ready for receiving students by the beginning of 1989, will be able to accommodate 9,000.

Ministry of Education has also invited tenders for constructing extensions to already existing schools. It also invited eight tenders for building 39 preparatory and secondary schools throughout the Kingdom at a cost of JD 2 million.

These projects will be financed through a JD 30 million loan from the Social Security Fund, approved by the Cabinet. The loan is designed for constructing new schools to overcome the double shift problem in the govern-

ment schools.

The ministry also signed agreements with six local consulting office to undertake studies and prepare plans and tender documents for the construction of 58 preparatory schools in various parts of Jordan. The construction of these schools are part of the 7th educational project, which aims to develop education in Jordan.

They will accommodate 58,000 students. The project will be financed through a loan from the World Bank. These studies will cost JD 800,000.

Minister of Education Thou-

qan Al Hindawi and representatives from the local companies signed the agreements. Attending the signing ceremony were Ministry of Education Secretary General Radi Wagfi, Director General of the Ministry's Projects Department Abdul Razzaq Al Ma'ani, the director of the Engineering Department, and head of the studies section.

On the 7th educational project, Mr. Al Ma'ani said that the World Bank and other financing bodies grant loans and technical assistance to the ministry to carry out projects designed to upgrade the educational system.

The World Bank also provides schools with basic reference books, which enrich the curriculum, and offers training to librarians. It also has provided for schools in Amman, Zarqa and Irbid with computers to meet the Jordanian labour markets needs.

Jordan and Poland sign health cooperation accord

WARSAW (Petra) — Jordan and Poland Monday signed an agreement on bilateral cooperation in health-related fields.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh and his Polish counterpart with whom he has been holding talks on bilateral cooperation. Under the agreement Poland will accept Jordanian students to study a variety of specialisations, such as psychiatry, X-ray treatment, nuclear medicine, forensic medicine, all of which Poland has had considerable experience.

Poland also offered to dispatch certified nurses dealing with mental health and psychiatry to Jordan.

After the signing ceremony, Dr. Hamzeh expressed deep satisfaction with the results of the talks and the agreement which he said would help Jordan maintain its drive to provide primary health care and to offer inoculation to children.

Dr. Hamzeh went to Poland after attending the World Health Assembly meetings in Geneva.

Cabinet allows Armed Forces to buy units at Abu Nuseir

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet on Monday authorised the Armed Forces personnel to buy units in the Abu Nuseir Housing project.

The Cabinet said that Armed Forces personnel wishing to benefit from the housing project, will have access to the same facilities and privileges of civil servants.

88 per cent of students in occupied lands listen to Jordan's broadcasts

AMMAN (Petra) — A questionnaire distributed by the Ministry of Education to students of the occupied Arab territories revealed that a total of 88 per cent of these students listen to educational programmes beamed by Jordan and other Arab states, according to Mr. Mohammad Attiyat, director of the ministry's department in charge of education through radio and television.

Mr. Attiyat said that 15.9 per cent of these students said in the questionnaires that they listen to educational programmes on a regular basis, and that the majority requested that programmes be telecast in the afternoon so that they can follow them regularly.

Nearly 50 per cent of the students said that the material in the programmes and the way they are presented were very convenient and useful. Nearly 26 per cent of the total number of students said that they find the programmes of great help to them in their studies, Mr. Attiyat noted.

But, he said, students indicated a desire for such programmes to be more comprehensive and to cover all school stages. The questionnaires have also indicated that the students of the occupied Arab land continue to

listen to programmes beamed by Arab countries in addition to those presented on radio and television in Jordan. The best time for receiving these programmes were between four and seven in the afternoon, Mr. Attiyat pointed out.

Ministry to expand programming

Mr. Attiyat said that, in the light of the questionnaires, the Ministry of Education will expand and intensify educational programmes directed towards the Arab students under Israeli rule. These programmes should cover all school subject matter at all stages: primary, preparatory and secondary; the length of broadcasts should be extended.

The ministry, he said, will cooperate with the Arab League to increase educational programmes beamed to the Arab population in Israeli-held territory. These programmes are needed to offset Israel's attempts to distort facts, and to introduce demographic and cultural changes in the land under Zionist rule, Mr. Attiyat noted.

Israeli distortions

Ever since Israel occupied

Arab territory, it has interfered with the content of school and university textbooks in the occupied Arab towns and has introduced books that impose Israeli ideas on the Arab students, Mr. Attiyat charged.

He said that certain books with the history of Israel's occupation and the colonisation of Arab lands were removed, and instead, Israeli views were substituted. These books and amendments to books are clearly designed to help Zionism maintain its drive towards colonising Arab territory and to undermine national feelings and national attachment to the Palestinian land, he added.

The Israelis have removed all indications in the Arabic books about Israel's repressive measures that led to the eviction of the Palestinian people from their land. These books contain maps and illustrations that carry the name of Israel, not Palestine, Mr. Attiyat added.

He said that in view of this dangerous situation, the Ministry of Education has no alternative but to work out intensive and more comprehensive programmes intended to foil Israel's ambitions and distortions of facts about Arab territory.

28 killed in missile attack on U.S. frigate

(Continued from page 1)

in the strongest terms and we are investigating the circumstances of the incident," the president said. "We remain deeply committed to supporting the self-defence of our friends in the Gulf and to ensuring the free flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz," Mr. Reagan said.

At the State Department, Iraqi Ambassador Nizar Hamdoun met with Under-Secretary of State Michael Armacost and Assistant Secretary Richard W. Murphy for 10 minutes.

He said later that if it is proved the Baghdad government was responsible "we will be courageous enough to announce it and to express our apology."

Mr. Reagan called a meeting of his national security planning group to "review the entire situation" in the Gulf and promised his report would include "any further steps that are warranted."

The White House said the Iraqi government has expressed great regret and promised a full account of the attack.

At the Pentagon, one official who spoke to AP on condition he not be identified, said the Stark did not try to defend itself because it "apparently assumed the (Iraqi) plane was friendly."

"We did not return fire," presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said. "I do not know the reason."

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry said President Saddam Hussein ordered a thorough investigation to determine whether Iraqi planes were responsible for the

attack. The Iraqi News Agency quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying "the Iraqi air force has carried out activities" in the area where the frigate was struck, 72 kilometres northeast of Qatar.

The spokesman said Iranian warplanes often intercept the Iraqi jets and the raid could have been carried out by the Iranians. "Iraq would never intentionally attack any target in the Gulf unless it was an Iranian target. If this attack was indeed carried out by Iraqi warplanes, then it would have been a result of confusion by the pilots," the spokesman told the agency.

He urged Washington to exercise patience until the investigation was completed and insisted Iraq would "publicly announce the results of the investigation and apologise with sorrow" if its air force was responsible.

Diplomats said the U.S. ambassador in Baghdad, David Newton, saw a senior official at the Foreign Ministry and demanded an explanation.

But some said the incident was unlikely to seriously disrupt relations which had started to improve after the setback of clandestine U.S. arms sales to Iran.

Iraq has 20 Mirages equipped with Exocet missiles, according to the 1986-87 military balance published by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS). It also has 53 other Mirage aircraft.

But Iran, according to the IISS, has no Mirage aircraft, relying mainly on outdated American-built planes supplied before the

d downfall of the Shah in 1979.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry said if the investigation proved Iraqi planes had made a mistake and hit the Stark "we possess the courage and clarity in our policy that make us prepared to confirm it before those interested and public opinion with regrets."

Mr. Murphy on a visit to Baghdad last week warned Iran against attacking U.S. ships in the Gulf.

"We regard any attack on an American ship as a very serious affair," he told a news conference. "We will do what is necessary to ensure the passage of our ships."

The Stark is the first U.S. casualty in the Gulf war, which has raged since September 1980.

Shipping sources in the region said the Stark was one of seven U.S. warships patrolling the Gulf. The United States had boosted its naval presence in the strategic waterway in the last two months as Iran stepped up attacks on merchant shipping.

Most of the Iranian attacks have been directed at ships bound to or from Kuwait.

At the White House, a spokesman said the Iraqi government had expressed regret and promised "as complete an explanation" as possible for the missile attack.

White House spokesman Dan Howard noted that Ambassador Hamdoun "already has expressed great regret that the incident has occurred" and U.S. officials in Baghdad have received the same response.

Magnificent Mushatta Palace within easy reach of Amman

Text and photographs by Josephine Zanabiri Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The geographic isolation and harsh climate have pushed the desert castles of East Jordan off the list of frequently visited sites of the Kingdom's extraordinary antiquities. However, one of the eight, Mushatta, is within surprisingly easy reach of Amman, located on an asphalted road at the back of Queen Alia International Airport.

With the exception of Qasr Hallabat and the fortress of Azraq, the remaining castles are all thought to be of Umayyad origin and probably constructed around the 8th Century A.D. The Caliphs of Damascus, as Lankaster Harding points out, were of bedouin stock and although "not unmindful of the comfort and luxury of their capital, they seemed to have a hankering for an occasional retreat into their native desert."

However, the traditional bedouin tent of the Hijaz was replaced by the magnificent hunting lodges and baths scattered from north of Damascus to the east Jordan desert and a particularly fine example, Khirbat Al Mafjar, constructed near Jericho.

Mushatta, although never finished, indicates the lavish scale and concept behind the desert palace. The building is often attributed to Walid II who was both a fine poet and musician. The Arabic name of the palace, meaning winter resort, indicates the in-



Children play near the enormous wall that surrounds Qasr Mushatta, one of the desert castles in East Jordan, dating from the Umayyad period, around the 8th Century A.D.

tended purpose of the qasr. Located on a rise in the low-lying hills of the Jiza area, the palace is constructed of fired brown bricks which blend organically with the surrounding mellow pink-brown landscape. The qasr, now fairly derelict, is surrounded by a magnificent wall, which was fortified with 22 towers, some semi-circular others fully circular. Although all have fallen into a state of disrepair, their indicated low height suggests that they were of a decorative rather than a defensive nature. The central gate way, which lies parallel to the entrance of the qasr, was decorated with magnificent but also unfinished facades, carved in

floral and animal motifs. Few pieces, however, remain as most were removed to a German museum at the turn of the century as the facades were given to the German Kaiser by the Sultan Abdul Al Hamid during a journey the German ruler made to the Near East.

Extensive garden

The extensive garden between the surrounding wall and the qasr was probably never completed, yet something of its innate artistic possibilities can be ascertained from the formal, ground level lay-out. On the right, a large rectangular space surrounded by

a low wall may have been intended as a "hanging garden." Part of the perimeter wall is incorporated into the garden and a semi-circular indentation has been carved out of the substantial wall. Was it to be used for seating in the cool of the garden or was it intended as a fountain? The left side of the garden is plotted into smaller geometric flower beds which may have been inter-spaced with pools of water.

The qasr itself was an imposing building divided into two spacious rectangular rooms by a grand entrance lobby. A sweep of columns, including two of green marble or granite, form the entry to the palace. Very little remains

of this once imposing hall, only some solid rectangular columns with carved capitals and the two rather forlorn green pillars.

Both wings of the building were divided into three sections at the front. Two of the three are roofed with fine, high vaulted ceilings and a courtyard separates the two chambers. Doors are also arched and of very high proportion. The back of the building appears to be the residential or living quarters as it is an extensive network of smaller rooms.

The reception room

The centre of the qasr, the reception room which is a direct continuation of the entry, is a superb semi-circular, domed chamber — an admirable place for any prince or king to hold his court.

The bricks of the palace were fired rather than sun dried — the traditional method of brick making. The brown lustre of the large squarish bricks gives the building a surprisingly modern appeal. Around 20 centimetres square on the top face and roughly the same size as modern construction bricks on the exposed side (5cm), the fired elements of Qasr Mushatta have an almost suburban regularity in their precise and uniform size.

Considerable work has been carried out by the Department of Antiquities on the palace and it has become both a safe and thoroughly enjoyable afternoon visit.

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Only one way to peace

WHILE the ruling Labour and Likud parties in Israel are indulging in their showdown over the issue of the proposed international peace conference on the Palestinian problem, the Israeli Foreign Minister, Shimon Peres, has been passing the last few days in the U.S. trying to canvass U.S. support for his ideas on the subject. Meanwhile, U.S. officials have insisted that they will not interfere in Israeli domestic politics and will stay out of the fray.

Although we can understand the U.S. administration's decision to stand aloof from the internal debates in Israel, we cannot comprehend how or why the U.S. government wishes to stay silent, vague and non-committal with regard to the international conference's proposal. This is all happening when the proposed party constitutes the only viable method to set the peace process into motion during these critical times. We need not subscribe fully to the words of Peres when he said "If there is a chance for peace it cannot be achieved without a very deep and serious involvement of the United States" to appreciate the value of Washington's clear and unequivocal support for the conference's proposal. Any U.S. wavering in this regard would obviously send the wrong signals to the parties to the conflict, particularly Israel. In an indirect manner, it could amount to interference in Israeli domestic politics, since it would probably strengthen the Likud's stance on the issue.

No one is suggesting that the U.S. interfere in the domestic policies of any country in the world; but, it is a well-established fact that the U.S. carries considerable weight in the search for an honourable and durable peace in our region. There is no doubt that the U.S. can and does influence the positions of governments, whether it chooses to interfere or not. Besides, what is asked of the U.S. is to support more clearly and strongly the call for the convening of a Middle East peace conference which the international community has chosen to initiate and support. In this context it would be only correct for all countries interested in peace in the Middle East, including the U.S., to lead their full backing to United Nations' resolutions to convene such a conference as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, the Arab World should serve notice to all that it will not entertain any idea, other than that of holding the international party, to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Israeli government, particularly its Likud wing, would be ill-advised to think that with time the Arabs would succumb to conducting negotiations with the Israelis in the format which the Likud wants. The permanent members of the Security Council enjoy powers and jurisdiction over issues and matters affecting peace throughout the world. When the international community calls on the U.N. Security Council to hold an international conference on the Middle East, it is simply invoking the U.N. Charter's rights and duties given to the Security Council as a basis for international action. No one can rewrite the U.N. Charter in this context; and Israel of all states cannot escape from its obligations to uphold the U.N. Charter, which bestows on the Security Council the solemn duty of creating peace conditions the world over.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Craving for democracy

THE registration of voters for the coming election in Jordan has ended, and the figures indicate that nearly a million people will be eligible to cast ballots in the election. This figure has been expected since more than 65 per cent of the Jordanian population are above 19 years of age. To have nearly a million people registering for voting, means taking the first step towards exercising the right to vote and to practice democracy. This also manifests the public desire for holding elections that have eluded Jordan since 1967 when Israel occupied the West Bank. The first few days allowed for registration of voters witnessed a poor turnout, but government measures and the press and information media have all cooperated towards encouraging the people to register and to exercise the right to voting in parliamentary elections. The people responded to such measures and encouragement and registered their names in the 700 registration centres in order to practice their rights when the time comes for election. So the members of the public have carried out their duty in the first stage and let us hope that they will not fail to shoulder such duty in the second stage when actual voting takes place.

Al Dustour: Shultz backs Shamir

SHIMON Peres, Israel's foreign minister, has faced defeat at the hand of the Likud bloc which is now at the head of government in Israel following a firm rejection by the Likud leader, Yitzhak Shamir, of the idea of an international peace conference on the Middle East. Despite that defeat, Peres flew to Washington in a bid to persuade U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to put America's weight behind the idea. But he was disappointed to see that Washington is totally behind Shamir's views with regard to dealing with the Arab side and in support of direct negotiations. Despite the ambiguity in Shultz's previous statements about the likelihood of convening an international conference, he proved totally opposed to this idea in his talks with Peres. Shultz, like Shamir, wants direct talks with the Arabs, and he supports Israel's views of not abandoning any part of the occupied Arab land. Therefore, it is easy to see that the Israeli coalition government will remain split over the question of the conference for several months to come. We are to expect Peres to brag about his support for such conference and Shamir staunchly opposed to this idea. We also expect Washington to pursue its present stand of seemingly not taking sides, but implicitly supporting the Jewish state's intransigence.

Sawt Al Shaab: Lebanon crisis lingers

LEBANON currently faces serious problems that continue to prevent a national reconciliation and place the country back on sound course towards peace and stability. One of these problems that emerged lately is the crisis in the cabinet whose head, Rashid Karami, resigned recently over failure to remedy the economy. The crisis also lies in the lack of harmony among the cabinet members who represent different positions and factions, and who are in one way or another under the influence of external forces. Lebanon is faced with the Israeli occupation of its southern regions and the displacement of its people and the destruction caused by the occupation and continued fighting. The rise in the price of the dollar and the fall in the price of the Lebanese pound presented the Lebanese with yet another problem, specially in the wake of the civil war that left the country in shambles. For these reasons the Lebanese are bound to continue facing very hard times, and will have to offer additional sacrifice before they can ever restore peace to the country.

U.S. sweetens the pot for defence projects in Egypt

Washington wants to switch to more direct financial assistance to joint ventures and licensing arrangements involving Egyptian military industries. Tony Walker reports on a shift in America's policy of military aid for Cairo.

CAIRO — The U.S., in a significant switch in its defence sales strategy towards Egypt, is proposing to provide more direct financial assistance to joint ventures and licensing arrangements involving Egyptian military industries.

U.S. policy has been to finance sales of American equipment to Egypt rather than support cooperative ventures, while Egypt has been pressing the U.S. to assist it in building up its defence industry.

Increased U.S. involvement in local industry was an important topic discussed during the visit to Egypt in April of Mr. Richard Armitage, U.S. assistant secretary of defence for international security affairs. He held talks with President Hosni Mubarak and Field Marshal Abdel Halim

Abu Ghazala, the powerful defence minister.

Mr. Armitage was attending the annual meeting of the U.S.-Egyptian Military Cooperation Committee. The U.S. provides \$1.3 billion annually in military grant aid to Egypt, which is second only to Israel in the amount allocated under the U.S. foreign military sales programme.

U.S. officials are understood to have indicated that they would look sympathetically at an Egyptian request for assistance in assembling a battle tank at a factory being built at Abu Zaabal, north of Cairo. The General Dynamics M-1 tank has emerged as the leading contender among four possibilities, including the Vickers Mark-7 of the U.K.

The new U.S. strategy of providing more cash assistance to

"sweeten the pot" for American companies seeking business in Egypt may assist Teledyne to win a deal to refurbish Egypt's Soviet-supplied T-54 tanks.

Teledyne has produced a T-54 prototype with a new gun, fire control systems, modern armour, a sophisticated rangefinder and an improved engine. The main challenger for the contract to modernise the tank is a partnership of the Royal Ordnance Factory and Wallop Industries of the U.K.

General Dynamics expects to demonstrate its M-1 during the "Bright star" joint military exercises in Egypt in August. The M-1, the latest generation U.S. tank, has not, however, been cleared for export to Middle East countries.

The switch in U.S. policy also coincides with a Soviet agreement in March to reschedule Egypt's military debt of about \$3 billion on generous terms. Washington has also been concerned about

losing ground diplomatically in the Middle East following the "Irangate" fiasco.

Egypt has been arguing that it should be given the same assistance as Israel under U.S. defence cooperation programmes: U.S. companies have engaged in joint ventures, licensing arrangements and offset deals with Israeli manufacturers.

U.S. reluctance to become more directly involved in Egyptian defence industry has been based on concern about quality control and on complications of doing business in a Third World environment. Another factor has been the lack of enthusiasm by U.S. companies, which would rather export than share their technology.

Mr. Frank Wisner, the new U.S. ambassador to Egypt, is said to want to encourage American companies to become involved in joint arrangements with Egypt's military industry. A favourable report compiled recently on

Egyptian military factories by a U.S. defence department technical team contributed to the review of American military sales strategy in Egypt.

Egypt has also proposed that it undertakes maintenance work on the U.S. Mediterranean Sixth Fleet which includes two carrier task forces. A shipyard in Alexandria is being upgraded with the assistance of a U.S. company.

Another Egyptian proposal is that it provide foodstuffs for the Sixth Fleet. Egypt's military forces have their own food-processing facilities, but Egypt has suggested that the U.S. assist in developing a factory to its specifications to supply the fleet.

U.S. officials say that these proposals are being considered in light of the review of defence sales strategy in Egypt.

Meanwhile, the nagging problem of Egypt's \$4.55 billion military debt to the U.S. is unresolved, but appears not to be causing undue concern.

Arrears totalling about \$800 million on the debt will be subject to rescheduling after Egypt's expected agreement with the International Monetary Fund on an economic reform package in exchange for balance of payments support. This will provide a breathing space while U.S. and Egyptian officials seek an equitable settlement of the debt.

Egypt has rejected an earlier U.S. proposal that it refinance its military debt at the prevailing interest rate of about 8 per cent, instead of the average 12 per cent at which it borrowed funds between 1979 and 1984.

The Egyptians objected because they would eventually have to pay the difference between the rate at which the funds were borrowed and the new more favourable interest rate, leaving a substantial residual amount to be settled at the end of Egypt's military debt repayment period in 2009 — Financial Times feature.

Muslim fundamentalism makes power felt in Mideast, Asia

By John Rogers

CAIRO — In the eight years since Iran's Islamic revolution erupted, fundamentalism has made its power felt through much of the Muslim world.

Many governments are worried by the spread of what they regard as Islamic extremism, Reuters correspondents across Asia, the Middle East and Africa report.

Some militants, especially in the Middle East, want to set up Iranian-style Islamic republics, by violence if necessary.

In several countries, demands for a greater degree of Sharia (Islamic law) have become part of the political agenda.

But an unstoppable march to power by militants, feared by officials in many capitals in 1979 after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini led Islamic militants to victory and ousted the shah of Iran, has not materialised.

Iran has described its conflict with Iraq as a holy war. In Lebanon, pro-Iranian underground groups have cited political reasons to justify kidnapping and killing of foreigners. Tehran has expressed understanding for hostage-taking, but not approval, and has offered to help resolve the issue.

Fundamentalist groups elsewhere are either banned, or tightly controlled, waging occasional bloody confrontation with the authorities — or have joined the political establishment.

In some one-party states, fundamentalism appears to serve as an outlet for political opposition. Muslim militants in several countries are viewed by officials as likely to take advantage of any social and economic unrest for their own ends.

Whatever the political situation, however, there appears to be a general trend towards stricter religious observance.

In Egypt, Turkey, Lebanon and Malaysia, for instance, more young women are wearing Islamic dress covering the hair.

"But that does not mean that they are activists," says an Egyptian official. "It's a sign of the resurgence of religious feeling, and that's not only among Muslims."

During the current holy month of Ramadan, when Muslims fast from dawn to dusk, argument has flared in parts of the Islamic world over how far abstention should be enforced.

A political row surfaced in Bangladesh over a government order closing restaurants during fasting hours. In Van, eastern Turkey, a student was killed in a fight between fasters and non-fasters.

Fundamentalist groups and parties have captured significant numbers of parliamentary seats in Egypt and Sudan.

Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood, banned but tolerated by the government as a moderate fundamentalist force, became the most influential opposition voice after elections last month.

Though President Hosni Mubarak's party has overwhelming control of the 458-seat people's assembly, the Brotherhood and its Socialist and Liberal partners won 61 seats, 35 of them held by Brotherhood members.

During the past week, Egypt closed Iran's diplomatic office in Cairo and expelled a diplomat as security sources said police had arrested 37 members of a Tehran-funded fundamentalist group which planned assassinations.

In March, Tunisia severed diplomatic relations with Iran after accusing Tehran's embassy in Tunis of stirring up anarchy and recruiting Tunisians to carry out illegal acts abroad.

South of the Sahara, dozens of Christian churches in northern Nigeria were destroyed during riots in March. Nigeria's Muslim president, General Ibrahim Babangida, blamed "ambitious and mindless power-seekers" with instigating the disturbances as a forerunner to a coup d'etat.

Reuters correspondents in various capitals assess the impact of fundamentalism this way:

Khartoum — The fundamentalist National Islamic Front (NIF), with more than one-sixth of parliament's seats, is led by the architect of ousted President Jaafar Numeiri's 1983 Sharia laws, which include such punishments as cutting off thieves' hands. Hassan Al Tourabi is now campaigning against the freezing of Islamic laws under Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, who has pledged to unveil a modified Sharia code. NIF supporters are powerful in banking and business.

Numeiri's imposition of Sharia helped spark a continuing revolt in the mainly-Christian and pagan south against domination by Muslim Arab northern Sudan.

Tunis — Tunisia's break in relations with Iran in March followed university disturbances which the government said were provoked by "fanatical" Islamic fundamentalists. Students said the incidents were in reaction to the suppression of university elections and over examination issues.

In Socialist Algeria, the authorities are on the defensive, trying to stop fundamentalist ideas from spreading by controlling mosques and preachers.

In Morocco, fundamentalism appears stagnant, because King Hassan is both temporal and spiritual leader and because no fundamentalist leader has emerged.

Police crush any attempts to form fundamentalist groups, and the king stresses his view of Islam as a centrist religion.

Lagos — Thousands of people have been killed in recent years in sporadic religious clashes between Muslim extremists and other groups in mainly-Muslim northern Nigeria. The rioting last March was the most recent example.

Nigeria, with 47 per cent of its 100 million population Muslims and 35 per cent of Christians, opened up a religious controversy

when it joined the Islamic Conference Organisation (ICO) last year. It did not attend this year's ICO meeting.

Ankara — In secular Turkey, fundamentalist-aligned parties score a steady five per cent in elections and opinion polls. Activists work underground in banned sects and their impact is hard to assess. Students at Ankara University's theology faculty have boycotted classes to protest against a government ban on wearing Muslim headscarves on campus.

Amman — Jordan seeks to promote moderate Islam through education to counter religious extremism born of economic discrepancies and materialism, says Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib. "There is no serious problem... I acknowledge there are many actions that go beyond the accepted norm, but this works on both sides," he told Reuters.

Damascus — Syrian troops crushed the Muslim Brothers in 1982, killing hundreds in their stronghold, Hama, and arresting thousands more. Security authorities are on constant watch to prevent any fundamentalist comeback.

Baghdad — In Iraq, locked in war against Iran since 1980, the government has ordered the elimination of anyone linked with fundamentalist groups, and especially the pro-Iranian Al-Da'awa (the call) underground party.

But in a move to appease religious feelings, it has also launched programmes to develop mosques and shrines, especially in the Shiite holy cities of Kerbala and Neifal.

Beirut — Muslim militants emerged as a powerful force in Lebanon after Israel's 1982 invasion. Iranian revolutionary guards arrived in the Bekaa Valley to fight the Israelis and stayed to spread Islamic revolution and train guerrillas.

Fundamentalist groups and fighters are heavily involved in Lebanon's civil war. But they

shun traditional politics, which try to balance Muslim and Christian interests.

Shi'ite cleric Sayyed Mohammed Hussein Fadallah says the goal of the Tehran-funded Hizbollah (Party of God) is to set up an Islamic republic in Lebanon, but conditions are not ripe. "We are far from immediate realisation but belong to a vast 'missionary' movement," he said in a recent magazine interview.

Kuwait — Kuwait, within earshot of the Gulf war front, is concerned about what the media, before censorship last year, portrayed as an Iranian bid to export fundamentalism. It staged mass deportations after an attempt on the life of the emir two years ago, and jailed 17 people for a series of bomb attacks in December 1983. Lebanon's Islamic Jihad (Holy War) group claimed responsibility for both attacks.

Saudi Arabia, the most conservative of Arab countries, was shaken in November 1979 by the take-over by Sunni Muslim extremists of the grand mosque in Mecca which houses Islam's holiest shrine. More than 200 insurgents and soldiers died before a two-week siege ended.

Tight surveillance continues in the kingdom's eastern province bordering the Gulf, where the Shi'ite minority rioted in 1979 and again in February 1980.

The tiny neighbouring island state of Bahrain did not escape the fundamentalist surge. Between 50 and 60 people, mainly Bahrainis, were arrested in December 1981 and accused of supporting an Iranian-backed plot to overthrow the government.

Security fears played a major role in the formation in 1981 of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), linking Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman in a defence and economic grouping.

Islamabad — Fundamentalists in Pakistan, where President Zia Ul Haq enforced Islamic punish-

ments after seizing power in 1977, are having a hard time getting their way under the current parliamentary system. Militants, a minority in parliament, are trying to force the government to agree to a bill for stricter enforcement of Sharia. But the ruling Muslim League, other opposition parties and religious groups are against the bill.

Dhaka — President Hossain Mohammad Ershad often says he intends to introduce Islamic laws in Bangladesh: the world's second biggest Muslim state, but has never made a clear pledge. "Inshallah (God willing), we shall enforce Islamic laws in our homeland one day," he told a congregation this month.

Fundamentalists bailed Ershad's Ramadan restaurant ban but opponents branded it as hypocritical.

Kuala Lumpur — Fundamentalism is growing in Malaysia, over half of whose 16 million people are Muslims. The government tries to appease Muslim Malays who want more Islamic measures while calming fears among non-Muslim Indians and Chinese that they risk being left out.

Manila — The government says there is no major cause for alarm about the growth of Muslim fundamentalism in the Philippines, Asia's only Christian country.

But Muslim diplomats say fundamentalism will grow in the south, where most of the six million Muslims live, if deadlock continues in a long-running and bloody confrontation over Muslim demands for southern autonomy.

Jakarta — Fundamentalism as a political force is on the wane in Indonesia, the largest Muslim country, although it has seen a modest revival as a religious movement in the cities. A wave of Iranian-style fundamentalism and violence peaked in 1984, and authorities have continued to crack down on Muslim dissidents.

Jackson dominates race after Hart pullout

By Michael Gelb

WASHINGTON — Jesse Jackson, a black, 45-year-old Baptist minister who can ignite crowds with fiery eloquence, has replaced Gary Hart as the dominant personality in the Democratic presidential race.

But he has not inherited Hart's "front-runner" mantle in the race for the Democratic Party's nomination as its candidate in the November 1988 presidential election, in the opinion of most political observers.

"It is a racial fact that a black is not going to be the nominee of the Democratic Party," said Michael Lomax, a local politician in Georgia and one of the party's up-and-coming young black office-holders.

Most political analysts, black and white, agree that while Jackson is a formidable force and a dynamic, attractive candidate, he still gets most of his support from America's 12 per cent black minority and has not yet shown that he can win the white vote.

The demise of Hart, who quit the race on May 8 amid controversy over his private life, has highlighted the dilemma facing Jackson, who was once an aide to murdered black civil rights leader Martin Luther King.

On the one hand, he stands head and shoulders above the other hopefuls — Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, former Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt, Missouri Representative Richard Gephardt and there or four others — for celebrity and charisma.

Joe Trippi, a strategist in the defunct Hart campaign, likens Jackson's "exciting personal impact" to "the excitement you feel

when the circus comes to town."

His name is nationally known from his years as a black rights advocate and his surprisingly strong 1984 nomination race. He has consistently drawn more support, as much as 20 per cent, than any of his rivals.

On the other hand, people simply do not think he can win. Jackson is expected to declare his candidacy formally later this year.

Strategists believe that Jackson will make a stronger showing than in 1984, when he picked up 3.5 million votes in presidential primaries and brought to the nominating convention the third-largest number of delegates after Hart and former Vice President Walter Mondale, who won the nomination.

"Jackson will probably have more delegates this time. He understands the rules now," says Mondale's 1984 campaign manager Robert Beckel. Beckel says Jackson has a tremendous advantage as the only hopeful who has conducted a national campaign.

In 1984, Jackson styled himself the candidate of a "Rainbow Coalition" representing all races and ethnic groups but, in truth, most of his votes came from blacks.

He campaigned in an unpredictable "shake-them-up style" that shunned campaign conventions, disciplines and timetables.

This time, he is making a conscious effort to preach a broad-based populist message of economic justice not only to blacks but to white farmers and industrial workers facing hard times in manufacturing, oil and agriculture.

He shuns black power rhetoric and speaks with sadness rather than anger of recent instances of violent racism.

Philippines election results: Right discredited, left weak

By Robert H. Reid

MANILA, Philippines — Despite fraud charges, President Corazon Aquino has clearly routed a discredited political right and outflanked a struggling left unable to persuade voters it is the only vehicle for change.

But the administration victory in races for the Senate and House of Representatives, as indicated by unofficial returns, does not guarantee a "rubber stamp" legislature or political peace.

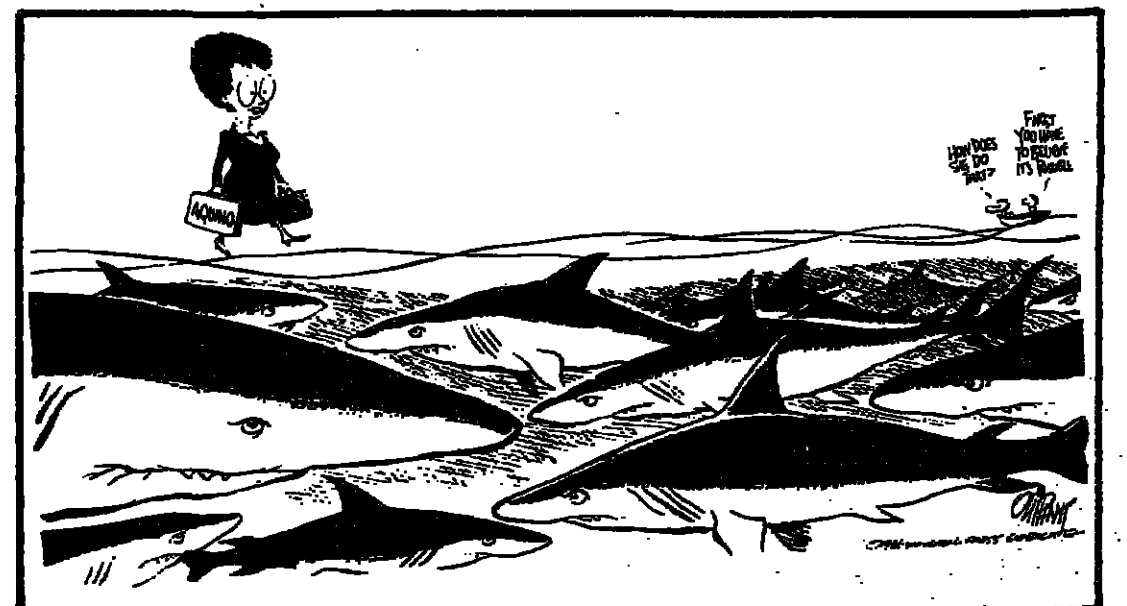
"Cory candidates" may form the majority in both houses. But they represent a range of ideologies and differ with one another on such issues as U.S. bases, economic development and land reform. Some come from entrenched power blocs, often associated with influential political families.

They will share power with a president barred constitutionally from seeking re-election who lacks effective party machinery to discipline followers or wield power throughout a nation divided ethnically, linguistically and culturally.

In addition, former Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, who enjoys support in the military, threatens to organise a mass movement against Mrs. Aquino because of alleged election fraud. His rightist Grand Alliance for Democracy (GAD) was virtually shut out of the Senate.

Although some credible fraud charges have been raised in specific precincts, few Philippine commentators, even those critical of the government, believe there was nationwide orchestrated cheating which significantly affected the outcome.

More than anything, the results represent what some commentators call the "exorcism of the Marcos legacy" — a repudiation



of politicians tainted by links with now-deposed President Ferdinand Marcos.

Before joining forces with Aquino, Enrile was Marcos's defence minister and oversaw years of martial law.

"There is little doubt that the general mass of Filipinos is not with them," columnist Luis Beltran, a frequent administration critic, wrote of Enrile's charges.

"The reason is obvious. Too many of those protesting now were themselves the cheaters during the Marcos regime when their victims — unlike themselves — were not even allowed to demonstrate the way they are now doing."

In justifying fraud charges, GAD candidates cite their poor showing in their own regional strongholds, a phenomenon they call "statistically impossible."

But others believe the "old guard" simply failed to adjust to power realignments in the post-Marcos era.

Columnist Belinda Olivares-Cunanan pointed out that GAD candidate Rene Espina's base in Cebu was eroding in the late 1970s and fell apart completely when he bolted the pro-government UNIDO party last year.

Senate candidate Blas Ople, Marcos' labour minister, was shocked by his poor showing in his voter-rich home province, Bulacan. But Ople ran a poor third there in the 1984 election.

Whatever prestige the mercenary Enrile gained through his break with Marcos was squandered by his criticism of Mrs. Aquino last year and bombastic threats to "do a Rambo" when the nation was wracked with coup plots and rumours.

Enrile, Marcos' defence minister for 17 years, led the 1986 military revolt which triggered a popular uprising that swept Mrs. Aquino to power. He was fired last November after a coup attempt by his followers.

"No matter how much Enrile tried to sanitise his image during the campaign and to maximise recall of his role in the overthrow of Marcos, Enrile failed to wipe out the Marcos stigma," Doronila wrote.

The pattern was broken only in the Marcos strongholds of northern Luzon and in the military. Support for Enrile in the ranks may still plague an administration, which faced several coup attempts during its first year in power.

Leftist candidates, poorly funded and identified by many voters with Communist rebels, also fared badly. Voters sympathetic with leftist goals of social reform and democracy could find stronger "progressive" candidates for their ballots on the Aquino ticket.

The centre is holding because fascist repression and the radical programme of social reorganisation offered by the left frightened the majority," said the Manila Chronicle.

Arabs waking up to dangers of AIDS

By Joseph Panossian
The Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus — The Arab World is moving to protect itself from AIDS, screening foreign visitors and training physicians to prevent and recognise the disease.

Arab news media commonly refer to AIDS as a "Western phenomenon" and the product of a "degenerate society." A small number of AIDS cases have been reported in the Arab World, but most of these cases have been publicly attributed to blood transfusions.

No cases have been publicly attributed to homosexuality or intravenous drug-taking, considered the major source of AIDS transmission worldwide. The laws in most Arab countries are based on Islamic jurisprudence, which holds that homosexuality and drug addiction are socially abhorrent and should be severely punished.

Until now, authorities in the conservative Arab countries have shied away from discussing AIDS or identifying victims.

A recent medical symposium made only oblique references to AIDS in its resolutions. Sources at the symposium, chaired by Kuwaiti Health Minister Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, said the participants upheld the traditional secrecy of patients' conditions, but made permissible the disclosure of information, if deemed in the interest of society... to prevent corruption related to religion, the body, the mind, resources or offspring.

The sources said that was intended to cover "certain infections with widespread effects," such as AIDS.

The disease is widely seen by Arabs as a result of sexual promiscuity and permissiveness in Europe and United States.

The London-based Lebanese



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weekly Al Hawadeth scoffed at Western news media, which it said were presenting AIDS as a "miniature doomsday."

"This prompts us Arabs to question whether AIDS is truly a universal disease, or merely an American-European disease brought about by decades of permissiveness," the magazine said.

A writer in Kuwait's Al Qabas daily said prevention was the cure for AIDS.

"Halal (legitimate heterosexual) sex, curtailment of promiscuity, and blood compatibility tests before marriage... are the rules if one wants to avoid falling into a world of vice."

Health authorities of the Gulf Cooperation Council are waiting for World Health Organisation guidelines before coordinating an anti-AIDS campaign. But they are starting to import equipment to diagnose AIDS.

They are most concerned about hundreds of thousands of expatriate Asians, Africans, Europeans and Americans who work in the

Arab World. People with confirmed AIDS cases, and suspected expatriate carriers, are deported immediately.

Saudi Arabia has had two cases of AIDS-infected expatriates reported but not officially confirmed. The journal of the American Medical Association said recently that both cases were linked to transfusions of infected blood.

The Saudis barred a group of Thai workers from entering the country recently when they failed to produce evidence they were not AIDS carriers.

Iraq, which last week said it was AIDS-free, said it is organising seminars "to tackle enlightenment and precautionary measures" for both physicians and the public to prevent AIDS. Iraq now requires all people entering the country — Iraqis and foreigners — to sign certificates saying they are AIDS-free.

The certificates are then sent to the health ministry, which may order further tests.

The official Iraqi news agency

said "all AIDS-prone categories" and imported blood specimens are now being checked. Visitors who fail to report for AIDS checks face heavy fines and imprisonment.

Tunisia's health minister, Dr. Souad Al Yaqoubi, told parliament that only four AIDS cases had been discovered among Tunisian expatriates, in addition to two cases among tourists.

No AIDS cases have been reported in Syria. But Syria has banned the entry of bar dancers from 14 countries, including several Far Eastern countries.

In neighbouring Lebanon, seven cases have been officially reported since 1984. But hospital sources said the number of AIDS cases is much higher.

Bahrain, Oman, North Yemen and South Yemen have not reported any cases of AIDS.

But Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates have deported dozens of expatriate workers suspected of carrying the disease. The Emirates have banned African green monkeys, suspected of being AIDS carriers. The first confirmed case in Kuwait was reported in November.

Qatari health officials reported in January that six of eight AIDS victims, including a Qatari child, had died. Most of the cases were attributed to blood transfusions.

Jordanian authorities insist none of their citizens has AIDS, but say a few carriers coming from abroad were discovered. Travellers leaving Jordan are handed booklets at Amman airport advising them how to avoid contracting the disease.

Egypt's health ministry confirmed that the citizens of some African countries are required to undergo blood tests in Egypt. The rule does not apply to returning Egyptians, although four were reported to have been infected by blood transfusions in an unidentified Arab country.



Accustomed to mastery, a 15-foot great white shark nears an abalone diver's mobile cage, developed specifically for work in South Australia's seas. The great white, the world's largest flesh-eating fish and one of the most dangerous predators, is relatively plentiful

there, apparently because of the numbers of a sea lions. No other group of men has had so much direct experience with "white death" as have the abalone fishermen.

'White death' prowls in Australian waters

By National Geographic

WASHINGTON — Huddled underwater in a steel-mesh cage off South Australia's Dangerous Reef, Richard Ellis breathed his air supply faster than usual as he awaited a face-to-face confrontation with a great white shark.

He didn't wait long before the shark appeared. At first it was a vague shadow in the green distance. But soon the phantom solidified into a gray, cone-nosed mass of muscle, heading straight for the cage.

Steadily, majestically, irresistibly, the shark approached. Without pausing, it opened its mouth and crunched into one of the cage's steel flotation tanks. Ellis's scientific objectivity vanished.

Most famous jaws

"I was only a couple of feet from the most famous jaws in the world, and they were chewing solidly on the cage in which I cowered, my scuba tank clanking noisily against the mesh as I tried to get as far away as I could from this remorseless man-eater," Ellis writes in the March National Geographic.

But his initial shock and terror soon became an unexpected calm, as if he were part of the shark's element and not a clumsy intruder. His breathing slowed to near its normal rhythm, and he became awed instead of fright-

ened: "I saw the shark for what it was — a powerful state-of-the-art predator, as modern as the latest jet fighter, but with an ancestry that can be traced back 300 million years."

The great white shark, the world's largest flesh-eating fish and one of the most dangerous predators, isn't common anywhere. But it seems relatively plentiful in South Australian waters.

Sea lions are the apparent reason. Ellis joined them beneath the sea, where he watched "the pinniped ballet — big black eyes and whiskery faces and flickering supple beige figures against a glittering backdrop of green water and filtered sunlight."

Although sea lions may be a choice item on the shark's menu, they sometimes escape its attacks. Many of the surviving victims bear scars to prove it.

So do some of the 1.3 million inhabitants of the state of South Australia, most of whom live along its coastline. Most of the people Ellis met work on or under the water, some in fear-some proximity to great white sharks.

One such man of the sea is Rodney Fox, who guided Ellis to the place where he dived. Fox knows firsthand about shark attacks and miraculous escapes.

Held together by wet suit

A great white nearly bit him in

half in 1963 while he was participating in a spear-fishing tournament near his hometown of Adelaide. His wet suit held him together while he was rushed to a hospital, where it took 462 stitches to sew him up.

Three months later he was back in the water, and today he's considered one of the world's leading authorities on the behaviour of the great white shark.

Fox is living proof that great whites don't always eat their human victims. But there are exceptions. A young woman was bitten in half and devoured off a South Australian public beach in 1985, providing "recent, tragic evidence that this shark does not play by the rules — even its own," Ellis writes.

Why does the great white attack? Sharks are sensitive to smell, sound, movement, electrical impulses, and the earth's magnetic field, and they can see better than was once thought. The shark that killed the young woman might have swum near the beach to investigate the commotion caused by her shallow-water diving.

In his travels around Australia's southern waters, Ellis talked to many fishermen. Ordinary fishermen go down to the sea in boats, but in South Australia he encountered some who go in cages — as protection against great white sharks.

They are the men who dive for abalone, shellfish that cling to underwater rocks and reefs. Today's "ab" fishermen employ sophisticated diving techniques that enable them to stay underwater for hours. Since 1975 they have used one-man, motorised shark cages.

No other group has had so much direct experience with the great white. Some of the fishermen tell harrowing tales of brushes with death.

'Bloody lucky'

Neil Williams, for example, told Ellis about a shark that approached him head-on while he was diving in 1983. "The only thing I could think of," he said, "was to shove the bag of abs right into his mouth. It was bloody lucky the bag was half full. What if I had just begun to fill it?"

Evidently lacking a... the rock-hard abalone shells, the shark turned and swam away, but not before severely slashing Williams's fingers. Luckily for Williams, the big fish didn't return.

Australians call the shark "white death." Rodney Fox, responding to a question from Ellis about why they weren't heading directly for Dangerous Reef, replied: "Once you see the sharks, you'll never want to go in the water again."

OPEC seen maintaining its oil price

By Andrew Hill
Reuters

PARIS — Demand for oil is edging higher again, and the prospect of a resurgent OPEC worries the United States and its Western allies.

The oil organisation plans a meeting in Vienna on June 25 to decide its next moves as it reassesses control of the international market, although market experts doubt whether it will hit consumers with a new price rise this time around.

They think that, despite dissent among some of the 13 members, the tactic will be to keep prices at the present \$18 a barrel at least until the end of the year, while gradually increasing the OPEC share of world oil trade.

The analysts broadly agree that OPEC (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries), while not raising prices, will take advantage of the rising demand and help cash-pinched members by slightly raising the ceiling on its output, which it uses to manipulate price levels.

"I don't see OPEC increasing prices," said London analyst Mehdi Varzi of stockbrokers Kleinwort Benson. "They'll stick to today's prices and go for a slightly higher output ceiling."

That would be unlikely to be welcomed by the United States' beleaguered oil industry, sections of which want Washington to adopt an oil import tax to protect high-cost American production against rising OPEC imports.

The West's concern about OPEC was articulated on May 11 at a meeting here of the International Energy Agency (IEA), a Western think-tank formed to help achieve secure energy supplies after the 1973 Arab oil embargo and subsequent oil price "shock."

An IEA resolution saw economic benefits to consumers as a result of decline in oil prices during the early 1980s, when a glut overwhelmed OPEC. Today's \$18 compares with \$34 for the barrel in October, 1981.

But cheap oil has led to higher consumption and has also hit investment in new, non-OPEC oil wells and other energy sources, so that energy output in IEA nations is falling. The IEA saw "concerns about long-term energy security."

Nowhere is concern keener than in the United States. Its 1986 oil output plunged 300,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 8.7 million bpd and is expected to decline to around 8.2 million bpd by the end of this year.

The number of operating oil rigs fell under the impact of lower oil prices from a high of 4,530 in 1981 to 700 last year.

According to IEA figures, Western demand for OPEC crude, which now accounts for about 40 per cent of its consumption, will rise to around 50 per cent by the year 2000.

This has heightened U.S. fears that the West could leave itself open to supply disruptions similar to the 1973 embargo, and the

possibility that opponents could use oil as a political weapon.

All the signs are that OPEC is back in control of prices, and could even try to offload pressure for an oil import tariff — so far resisted by the Reagan administration — by raising them next year to a level that would encourage new U.S. oil development.

"I think OPEC would be quite happy to accommodate the United States," said oil analyst Peter Nicol of London brokers Smith New Court.

"If they got the oil price up to \$23 a barrel some time in the future, there would be much less pressure (for an oil import tax)," he said.

But that is on a far horizon, the analysts say. The June meeting will aim at consolidating OPEC's grip between now and the end of the year.

OPEC's fortunes turned up in December, when it set itself a production ceiling of 15.8 million bpd and decided to resume setting fixed, take-it-or-leave-it prices for its contract customers around \$18 a barrel.

The decision ended more than a year of disarray when world oil prices were effectively set by the free market and plunged from \$30 a barrel to lows under nine in July 1986 because of huge OPEC overproduction and lack of coherent policy.

That has changed. Despite calls by hardliners, such as Libya, Iran and Algeria, for a \$28 price, OPEC is likely to opt for a "short, sharp meeting" and mere-

ly increase its ceiling, Varzi said.

"I think the meeting will increase OPEC production quotas for the third quarter of the year by another 800,000 bpd — the market will demand more oil," said Peter Morgan of Warburg Securities in London.

OPEC has tentatively set a ceiling of 16.6 million bpd for the third quarter, which could accommodate calls by members such as the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and smaller producers for slightly higher quotas, the analysts said.

The shape of the final communiqué is likely to be effectively drafted when the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) meets on May 19 and 20, said Varzi.

The GCC groups OPEC members Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar and non-OPEC Bahrain and Oman. The existing pact was sponsored by Saudi Arabia and the kingdom is unlikely to allow the price gains since December to be thrown away by imprudent pricing or production decisions, the analysts said.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have already said they want OPEC to stick to current prices when the oil ministers of the two Gulf neighbours met in Kuwait on May 9.

Any decision to increase prices is unlikely to come before the end of the year, when demand for OPEC oil peaks with the onset of the northern hemisphere's winter, they said.

Iraq moves to cut bureaucracy

By Subhy Haddad
Reuters

BAGHDAD — President Saddam Hussein has launched reforms to cut bureaucracy and waste in a bid to boost Iraq's battered economy, heavily dependent on oil to finance development and war spending.

The campaign has given more autonomy to trade and industrial firms within the country's socialist economy, shuffled the leadership of key ministries and dissolved differences between white and blue collar government workers.

The economy has been hard hit by the war with Iran, now well into its seventh year, the drop in oil prices and the fall in the value of the dollar in which oil revenue is paid.

Iraq is already beset with an estimated \$50 billion in foreign debt and military expenditure and economic aid it will need about \$15 billion this year to cover spending and debt servicing — considerably more than its expected oil earnings.

In an effort to save money and channel manpower into more productive areas, Hussein early this year scrapped an entire layer of bureaucracy which governed the country's state-owned economic and industrial enterprises.

Authority went to the establishments themselves, which

account for about 78 per cent of Iraq's gross domestic product.

In a similar move, the ruling Revolutionary Council last month abolished five state bodies handling the country's imports and exports, passing responsibility to the trade ministry.

The moves helped to shrink the administration's unwieldy ranks, which had swelled to absorb unemployed high school and college graduates following the 1973 surge in oil prices. Many youths are now serving in the army for an unlimited period.

In a further bid to increase efficiency, Hussein abolished a labour law giving white and blue-collar government workers different rights and privileges.

The president told labour leaders in March there was no longer any need for trade unions among government workers "now that all are becoming state officials."

Hussein later said full-time trade union leaders had exceeded 3,750, who apart from being non-productive had access to government cars and other facilities.

They now have returned to their previous jobs as ordinary workers.

At the same time, Hussein shuffled the leadership of the oil, heavy industry and transport ministries to boost industry and increase non-oil revenues.

Veteran Oil Minister Qassem

Ahmed Taqi was named heavy industries minister, while his place was taken by his under-secretary, Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi, a technocrat who headed the Iraqi National Oil Company.

Hatam Abdul Rashid, former chairman of the powerful Iraqi Federation of Industries, was appointed industry minister.

With oil financing 90 per cent of the war with Iran, Hussein draws the guidelines for the country's oil policy.

It is alone among the 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in refusing to comply with assigned oil quotas.

The president has also called for expanded refining capacity and the development of by-products.

In a further rationalisation, Chalabi on May 11 announced a major reorganisation of the oil industry, abolishing three state oil organisations and amalgamating the National Oil Company with the oil ministry.

Hussein's economic reforms are aimed at cutting imports of industrial goods and saving hard currency by replacing them with home-made products.

He has called on Iraqi technocrats to follow the example of army colleagues, who he said had succeeded in producing sophisticated military hardware.

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Rising No. of crashes alarms Indy drivers

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — In 17 days of practice and qualifications leading up to next Sunday's Indianapolis 500 there have been 23 accidents, a number causing concern for the safety of the drivers in America's most popular auto race.

The 23 crashes, most involving contact with the concrete training walls, is sharply up from eight pre-race accidents last year and has drivers and automotive designers searching for some common cause for the incidents.

Three drivers remained in hospital Monday while other somewhat luckier companions such as former winner Tom Sneva, Dick Fergusson and Gary Bettenhausen — all driving cars with English-built March chassis — have walked away from two pre-race accidents.

The drivers in hospital are

Scotsman Jim Crawford and Americans Dennis Firestone and Johnny Parsons.

Firestone, who suffered a broken left foot and leg in one crash, hit the wall backwards in a second crash on the fourth turn and received several fractures in his neck.

"He's a lucky boy (to be alive)," said Dr. Henry Bock, chief of the speedway medical staff.

Crawford, a native of Dunfermline, Scotland, received several fractures in both legs when his car spun into a first-turn

wall during a qualification run. Radar guns clocked him at 236 miles per hour (380 kilometres) down the straight when he lost control of his buick-powered 1986 March.

Crawford will be in a wheelchair for eight weeks and will not be able to drive a racing car for six months.

Parsons smashed the barrier in the first turn during a practice drive and sustained a fractured left heel and broken right ankle requiring surgery.

Firestone was driving a Lola and Parsons a March.

Some have blamed the accidents on continuous hot, sunny weather that brings oil up from the grooves making the track exceptionally slick.

But many more drivers have complained that the March chassis — which were involved in 18 of the incidents — especially the 1987 models, are not compatible with the Goodyear radial tyres that all the cars are equipped with for the first time this year.

In a race with only left turns where cars are moving at over 200 miles per hour (322 kilometres) several drivers have complained that their machines are refusing to turn left.

Sneva, who finally qualified with a year-old backup car after his two crashes, said that in each incident his car would not turn. "It's all related to the tyres," said Sneva. "Speeds are down and that tells you they (tyres) are not getting the grip they did in the past."

Sneva added that generally cars do not handle as well on race day as they do during practice because of the turbulence from all the cars running at once.

Bayern captain undergoes surgery

MUNICH, West Germany (R) — Bayern Munich captain Klaus Augenthaler Monday had an operation on his spine after doctors diagnosed the West German international was suffering from a slipped disc.

Doctors said Augenthaler would be out of action for the rest of the present season and would have to stay in hospital for at least a week.

Elliott wins first leg of Milk Race

NEWTON AYCLIFFE, England (AP) — British professional Malcolm Elliott followed up his victory in the time trial by winning the first stage of the 30th Milk Race Cycling International Monday.

Elliott completed the 103.2-mile (166.1-kilometre) leg from Newcastle upon Tyne to Newton Aycliffe in the north-east of England in four hours, eight minutes

and seven seconds, finishing a length clear of a pack of 68 riders. It kept the Yorkshireman, second overall last year, in the lead for a second day.

At that stage, Philippe Casado and his Peugeot (France) teammate Philippe Louviot, together with Miroslav Sykora of Czechoslovakia had a four minute, 45 second advantage over Elliott and the main field.

Graf threatens to get too good for the rest

WEST BERLIN (R) — Walking out alone on court armed only with a tennis racket to face West German prodigy Steffi Graf could these days class as attempted suicide.

The 17-year-old Graf possesses such a devastating battery of shots it would be fairer to allow her opponents something more substantial to answer with — like heavy artillery.

Graf has stormed through the women's tennis hierarchy at such impressive speed and at such an early age, she already looks set for an era of invincibility which even Martina Navratilova at her best could not match.

The figures speak for themselves. Graf Sunday clinched the West German Women's Open Championship to gain her sixth title in a row, chalking up her 32nd successive win in the process.

Since March last year she has won 14 tournaments and lost just three matches — twice to Navratilova and once, suffering from a virus, to Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia.

She beat both Navratilova and Chris Evert so easily in straight sets to win the players international at Key Biscayne in March that Navratilova herself conceded Graf was the best in the world.

Everyone agrees except the women's tennis computer which still ranks her second behind the Czechoslovak-born American and almost certainly will do until the U.S. Open in September.

The frightening thing for her opponents is that Graf, who is not 18 till next month, may still be far from her peak.

Klaus Hofsaess, the West German Women's team chief and a close friend of the Graf family, believes she will develop considerably in the next two years.

"If she continues as she is doing, she will be too good for the women's circuit in one or two years. That is no exaggeration," he said.

"She already has incredible speed and power and she's not finished improving in this respect. She is like a panther on court."



Graf in action; 'a panther on court' hits one of the blows that brought fame and glory to the West German teenager

"In the short term there will always be someone who can put up some opposition but in the long term no-one will be able to stay with her."

Many critics, tired by years of Navratilova-Evert supremacy, rejoiced at the coming of the new tennis princess Graf. But they may soon be complaining that she is making the game boring, simply because she is too good for everyone else.

Her forehand has been the most feared weapon on the women's circuit for at least a year but more recently she has added other facets to complete her game

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Brazil meets England today

LONDON (R) — The enduring appeal of Brazilian soccer has rarely been more clearly illustrated than by the interest shown in Tuesday's international against England at Wembley. It is now nearly 17 years since Brazil last won the World Cup and they embarked on their current tour after a heated domestic power struggle that left the squad without a number of key players. Despite this, and England's own considerable selection problems, Wembley Stadium will be full to its near-100,000 capacity for one of the few times for an international match since the ground staged England's World Cup triumph in 1966.

Taylor leaves Watford for Aston Villa

LONDON (R) — Graham Taylor, manager of Watford for the past 10 years, parted company Monday with the English League soccer club he steered from the Fourth to First Division. Taylor, who admitted that his decision "may not make a lot of sense to some people," will take over as manager of Second Division Aston Villa. Dave Bassett, who resigned as manager of First Division Wimbledon last week, was taking over from Taylor at Watford. Taylor arrived at Watford in 1977 when they were a struggling Fourth Division club. With the support of the club's rock-singer chairman Elton John, he launched them on a rapid ascent which took them to the First Division in 1982 and to second place in the league a year later. Taylor said: "This decision will probably not make a lot of sense to some people, as I am leaving a First Division club to take charge of one in the second." "But I have a reputation for not following the system, and now my immediate aim is to get Villa back into the First Division as soon as possible."

Yugoslavia wins World Cup water polo

SALONICA, Greece (AP) — Yugoslavia has routed Cuba 13-5 and won the fifth Water Polo World Cup over the Soviet Union on a better goal differential. Yugoslavia finished in a tie for first with the Soviet Union in the eight-team round-robin tournament, but the Soviets could only manage a 7-5 win over the fourth-place U.S. team. In other games, West Germany took third place in the week-long tourney with a 9-6 win over Spain, and Italy beat Greece 12-4. Yugoslavia entered the tournament's last match, needing at least a three-goal victory over Cuba. It achieved that easily, with Perisa Bukic and Igor Milanovic leading the way with three goals each.

AMMAN LITTLE LEAGUE May 15

T-Ball

Signode-Jamco 11 vs. Seiko 13
Dorma 15 vs. Mercedes Benz 11

Coach Pitch

General Computers & Electronics 15 vs. Jordan Worsteds Mills 36
Jordan Express 23 vs. Volvo 22
Danish Dairy 26 vs. Nashash/Ebbin 18

Kid Pitch

Istiklal 10 vs. Wang 8
Samar 15 vs. Furukawa 5
Squibb 11 vs. Ericsson 11

Soft Ball

Beagle Engineering 4 vs. Westing House 17
Al-Ahlyah 3 vs. Near East 2

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ANNOUNCEMENT

THE EMBASSY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY has the pleasure of informing their visitors that the consular section will move to AMRA FORUM HOTEL, 2nd floor, starting from May 21, 1987.

Visiting hours will remain the same: Sun, Mon, Tue and Thu 08:00 - 10:00 a.m. and by appointment.

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Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

HEARTBURN



Performances 3:30, 5:10, 9:30, 10:45

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

SURVIVAL

Performances 3:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 675573

OPERA

NEVER SAY NEVER AGAIN



Performances 3:15, 5:15, 8:45, 10:45

Cinema Tel: 677420

PLAZA

VOLUNTEERS

Performances 3:30, 5:10, 9:30, 10:45

Cinema Tel: 622199

RAGHADAN

CLASH OF THE NINJAS

Performances 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 9:45

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Monday.

One Sterling	1.6838/48	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.3410/15	Canadian dollar
	1.7745/55	West German marks
	2.0003/13	Dutch guilders
	1.4542/52	Swiss francs
	36.79/82	Belgian francs
	5.9300/50	French francs
	1287/1288	Italian lira
	139.55/65	Japanese yen
	6.2125/75	Swedish crown
	6.6100/50	Norwegian crowns
	6.6700/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	474.70/475.20	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices stood mixed in late business in reaction to an early 10 point fall on Wall Street after staging a midday rally on the back of a much better than expected April U.K. retail sales figure, dealers said.

Prices were lower at the outset on the Wall Street decline Friday and the Tokyo market's fall overnight, as well as a weekend television opinion poll showing a narrowing of the gap between the ruling Conservatives and opposition Labour.

However, shares rallied from their early lows as news of a much larger than expected 3.8 per cent rise in April U.K. retail sales gave buying incentive, dealers added.

The retail sales figures exceeded market forecasts of 1.2 to 1.5 per cent growth and pointed to a much stronger than anticipated showing by the retail sector.

Dealers said domestic factors are still at the forefront of most investors' minds but the signals from the U.S. about rising inflation and interest rates plus falling industrial output and lingering concern about a possible trade war with Japan are beginning to command more attention.

At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up 2.2 at 2,191.9.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a time of opportunities, opportunities, opportunities! You are able to find new ways to put your most interesting and progressive plans into motion.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You can realize whatever wishes you have. Forget monetary worries and be happy with a good friend tonight.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) It's a fine day for handling career and credit matters. Don't try to push a personal concern now.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Garner the information you need from a distance and use it wisely. This can bring you fine rewards.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get the assistance of experts so that you can handle your business affairs ideally.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) State your aims to prominent persons who can best assist you. Action and advancement figure prominently.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Today you can do your best work and gain fine benefits. Be very cooperative with higher-ups.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Try a new way of gaining your aims. Take time out to arrange for the pleasures you like the most.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be more concerned with the big ambitions of your family. This is a good time to invite guests into your home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You can make a fine impression on anyone you contact. Make the future more successful thusly.

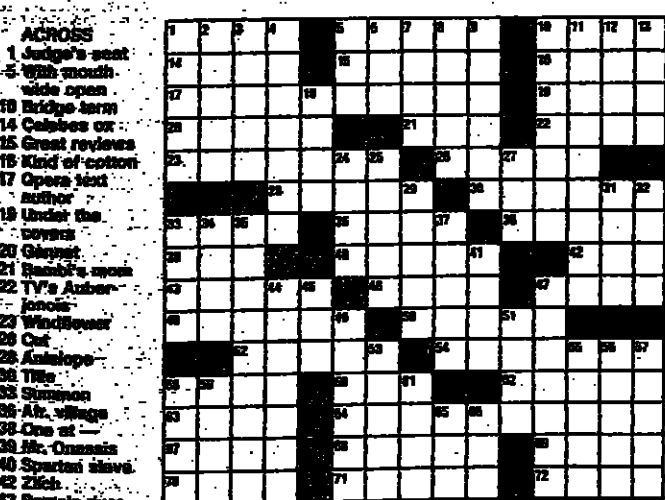
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You have good ideas about increasing your bank account. Your personal wishes can be realized quickly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) New friends and long-time buddies can assist you today, so be gregarious and see as many as you can.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Sit with advisers and discuss how to make your future brighter. Show your true sense of humor.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, is bound to have a very unusual and interesting existence. It would be wise to give as fine an academic education as you can, but add some business courses as well so that your progeny can use the clever ideas in his, or her, head.

THE Daily Crossword by Harvey L. Chew



- Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:
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Down | 93 Across | 94 Down | 95 Across | 96 Down | 97 Across | 98 Down | 99 Across | 100 Down | 101 Across | 102 Down | 103 Across | 104 Down | 105 Across | 106 Down | 107 Across | 108 Down | 109 Across | 110 Down | 111 Across | 112 Down | 113 Across | 114 Down | 115 Across | 116 Down | 117 Across | 118 Down | 119 Across | 120 Down | 121 Across | 122 Down | 123 Across | 124 Down | 125 Across | 126 Down | 127 Across | 128 Down | 129 Across | 130 Down | 131 Across | 132 Down | 133 Across | 134 Down | 135 Across | 136 Down | 137 Across | 138 Down | 139 Across | 140 Down | 141 Across | 142 Down | 143 Across | 144 Down | 145 Across | 146 Down | 147 Across | 148 Down | 149 Across | 150 Down | 151 Across | 152 Down | 153 Across | 154 Down | 155 Across | 156 Down | 157 Across | 158 Down | 159 Across | 160 Down | 161 Across | 162 Down | 163 Across | 164 Down | 165 Across | 166 Down | 167 Across | 168 Down | 169 Across | 170 Down | 171 Across | 172 Down | 173 Across | 174 Down | 175 Across | 176 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Philippine government takes control of beer giant San Miguel

MANILA (R) — The Philippine government took control of the board of beer and food giant San Miguel Corporation (SMC) last week, apparently ending a year-long struggle by the management to stage off the takeover.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government, which controls 51 per cent of "San Mig," the Philippines' largest private corporation and top employer, raised its nominees on the 15-member board from six to nine.

The Soriano Group, led by board chairman Andres Soriano, whose family founded the company in 1890, ended up with a minority of six directors at the stormy annual meeting.

Stockholders booed as the election of the government directors was announced. They donned black armbands to protest against what they termed as unfair interference in private enterprise.

Large cloth banners hanging outside the company's headquarters said "keep politics out of SMC," "SMC under siege" and "we need Mr. Andy at SMC."

Throughout the 2 1/2-hour meeting, stockholder after stockholder stood up to launch emotional attacks on the commission chairman, Mr. Ramon Diaz, and individual government directors.

Each was told firmly by Mr. Soriano to desist. He also told them the annual meeting was not the appropriate forum for such outbursts.

But Mr. Soriano, 36, — the "Mr. Andy" hailed by the banners — was frequently cheered as he said in a speech before the government directors were elected that the new Philippines' new constitution enshrined free enterprise.

"All that San Miguel asks for is that these principles become and remain a living reality," he said.

He said he had hoped that the government's pledge not to be involved in private business would be kept.

"At that time, I quoted other businessmen as saying that we can compete amongst ourselves, we can compete with multinational corporations, but we cannot compete with our own government," Mr. Soriano told the meeting.

He said he was confident private enterprise could act as a catalyst for national development but only with the government's "enlightened assistance."

"On the other hand if the government opts for a larger role and presence and if its agencies were to intervene, even with the noblest of intentions, with the management and operations of business, we submit that investor confidence will be shaken and the road to economic recovery less inviting," Mr. Soriano said.

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Fiji coup leader, governor both claim to be legitimate leaders

SUVA (R) — Fiji's rebel military rulers announced Monday that their leader, Lieutenant-Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, had been sworn in as chairman of a council of ministers by Governor-General Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau.

The announcement on state radio caused confusion. Less than an hour earlier Ganilau had declared over the radio that Col. Rabuka had agreed to give him executive powers.

Ganilau said the military-backed council, which seized power after a lightning coup four days ago, was unlawful and it was impossible for him to recognise its legitimacy.

The governor-general, appointed by Queen Elizabeth who is Fiji's head of state, ordered that the council be dismantled as soon as possible to assure public order and a quick return to parliamentary rule.

The later announcement said Ganilau swore in Col. Rabuka Sunday night and would administer the oath to the other members

of the council on Tuesday. "The swearing in ceremony involved the two traditional oaths taken by heads of government of Fiji on taking office. These are the oath of allegiance and the oath of office," the announcement said.

It did not refer to Ganilau's earlier broadcast in which the governor-general ordered all troops not needed for public security to return to their barracks.

Ganilau said the queen had sent a message firmly supporting his stand and saying he might go to London at an opportune time to seek further advice from her.

He quoted the message as saying: "Her Majesty is following developments with the closest

attention and hopes that you will keep us in touch. We are here to help in any way we can."

Information Ministry officials could not immediately explain the apparent disparity between the two statements.

Soldiers, some in commando-style masks, were still patrolling strategic centres in the capital Monday. Troops were also driving around in trucks.

The military Sunday night ordered reserve troops to report for duty after ethnic Indian leaders called for a national strike and other protests over Col. Rabuka's plan to deny political power to Indians, who slightly outnumber Melanesians Fijians.

Indians, descendants of indentured labourers brought to the South Pacific by the British in colonial times, dominated the coalition government of Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra which came to power in elections last month.

Most Indian shops and firms in

the capital were closed Monday. About 2,000 people attended a rally in the heart of the city but no disturbances were reported.

Dr. Bavadra and members of his government were detained by Col. Rabuka.

The governor-general called in his statement for all those held by the military to be released.

Ganilau also said: "The regime has now agreed that I have the right to exercise the executive authority and urged me to remain as your governor-general and to exercise the powers that I hold by virtue of that appointment."

He added: "As the chief executive I have directed the regime to dismantle its organisation as soon as it is possible and to assure public order and a quick return to parliamentary rule."

Dr. Bavadra in a scribbled message smuggled out of captivity and delivered to New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange called on New Zealand and Australia to intervene in the crisis.

Baker downplays Reagan-Weinberger split

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker Jr. has said the president is not mad at Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger over a statement that appeared to differ with the administration's stance on reducing medium-range nuclear missiles.

Mr. Weinberger, answering reporters' questions in Norway last week as he attended a meeting of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) defence ministers, said he thought the United States "ought to do everything necessary to get rid of all" medium-range weapons.

That conflicts with a draft treaty proposal advanced by the United States to its Soviet counterparts in talks in Geneva, in which

the administration's negotiators followed an understanding reached between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev last October in Reykjavik, Iceland.

The New York Times, citing unidentified sources, reported Sunday that officials in the White House and State Department were upset over Mr. Weinberger's remarks, and concerned that they would be interpreted as a signal that the United States is going to revise the proposal it offered in Geneva.

Mr. Baker, appearing on the U.S. television network NBC's "Meet the Press," said: "No, the administration, the president is not mad at Cap Weinberger."

"I have to tell you that, I, like

you, read that account and was concerned about its implications," he said. "For instance, was Cap saying that we ought to officially and formally revise our negotiating position and take the draft treaty off the table?"

Mr. Baker said he spoke with Mr. Weinberger after the defence secretary returned from Norway.

"He assures me what he said was perfectly within the range of the president's instructions," Mr. Baker said. "That is to say, we have tabled a draft treaty which provides for a hundred on a side of intermediate range missiles, but that we have conveyed to the Soviet Union and to our NATO allies that the president has a strong preference for zero-zero on both sides."

Chinese forest fire still out of control

PEKING (R) — A 12-day-old forest fire that has killed 191 people in north-east China has defied official forecasts that it would soon burn itself out and is advancing on two major towns, the China Daily said Monday.

Flames were 15 kilometres from Mohe, China's most northerly town, and were once more threatening Tahe, with 100,000 inhabitants, which was spared a week ago only by a massive fire-fighting effort, the newspaper said.

It quoted a forestry official as saying strong winds and warmer weather had rekindled the fire,

which has raged over 5,800 square kilometres. But authorities still hoped to extinguish the fires by Wednesday.

Efforts to seed clouds with chemicals to trigger rain over the fires in the Daxingling mountains have had little effect, the New China News Agency said.

Thirty-four thousand soldiers, firemen and civilians are fighting the blaze, mainly by backing out firebreaks up to 50 kilometres long.

At least 221 people have been seriously injured and more than 50,000 made homeless, the news agency said.

Residents in other areas of Heilongjiang province have donated the equivalent of \$1 million as well as clothes, bedding and food, it said.

Nationwide, factories and other work places are collecting clothes for homeless evacuees and Red Cross organisations have donated money, the agency said.

The cause of fire, China's first in nearly 40 years, is not known. Areas of the Soviet Union to the west also suffered serious forest fires because of unusually dry weather last month but Soviet territory is protected from China's blaze by the Amur River.

Argentine navy chief urges solution to human rights cases

MAR DEL PLATA, Argentina (AP) — The head of Argentina's navy said Sunday that the nation needs to devise a permanent legal solution to end further "bloody clashes" over human rights prosecutions.

In a Naval Day speech 400 kilometres south of Buenos Aires, Navy Chief Vice, Adm. Ramon Arosa told a crowd a "definitive solution" was needed so "all Argentines can forget mutual aggressions" lingering from the former military regime.

Adm. Arosa's remarks were the first by a military leader since the House of Deputies on Saturday approved a presidential proposal to exempt from prosecution all but the top officers accused of atrocities during the 1976-83 "dirty war" against suspected leftists.

Defence Minister Horacio Jaunarena said after the ceremony that the armed forces "needs to overcome its past" and become a part of modern Argentine society, not work against the majority's wishes — a reference to three army camp rebellions last month that paralysed this nation

of 31 million.

During those revolts, hundreds of thousands of people poured into the city's streets to back democracy and denounce the military, which is blamed for the 1982 loss of the Falkland Islands war to Britain, protracted economic ills and human rights abuses.

In the "dirty war" campaign, at least 9,000 people vanished, according to a government investigatory commission. Human rights groups estimate the actual death toll at 30,000.

Contrary to some analysts' expectations, Adm. Arosa did not call for a total amnesty sought by officers accused of rights atrocities including kidnapping, torture and murder.

"We consider it essential that there be a fraternal dialogue between the civilians and military... to reconcile the Argentine family," the navy chief said in a midday speech.

"The navy is fully aware of the political and judicial difficulties that ought to be overcome to this proposal that (threatens to) split Argentina," Adm. Arosa added.

Striking Peru police disperse after threat by president

LIMA (R) — Striking Peruvian police dispersed after President Alan Garcia threatened to send in troops to evict them from barracks they had been occupying to press for higher pay.

An hour before the midnight (0500 GMT) deadline set by Mr. Garcia to end the illegal three-day police strike, all but a handful of strikers had left the area round a central Lima police complex they were using as headquarters for the dispute.

The capital's other main police barracks was empty of protesters. Militants outside the complex told Reuters they planned to leave before midnight because they did not want to be provoked into a confrontation with the army, but that the strike to press for an almost 800 per cent increase in basic pay continued and they would return in the morning.

In a toughly worded communique, Mr. Garcia's press secretary said the strikers were mutineers and the armed forces would take complete control of public order in the capital from midnight.

Military sources said several hundred paratroopers backed by light tanks were on alert.

The communique said the military could take all measures necessary to end the strike, including the use of "the force they consider suitable" to dislodge the strikers. It said that any bloodshed would be the responsibility of the protesters.

The communique said any police who did not return to normal duty after midnight would be dismissed and face charges. Preparing for a possible confrontation, the government announced it was closing all schools in Lima and its port of Callao for Monday and Tuesday.

The presidential communique said that despite an agreement to end the dispute reached Sunday between the secretary general of the ruling Apra Party, Luis Negreiros, and strike leaders, the stoppage was continuing.

U.S. making nuclear arms for special targets — report

NEW YORK (R) — The United States is developing a third generation of nuclear weapons using extremely small charges to accomplish highly specialised purposes, Time magazine has reported.

As an example, Time cited the Hazebrook nuclear device, which has the explosive power of only 40 tonnes of TNT, just 0.2 per cent as strong as the bomb dropped on Hiroshima during World War II.

The device, which the magazine said was tested last February, is designed to send a spray of pellets through space at a speed of up to 100 times that of a rifle bullet to destroy incoming missiles before their warheads can be released, the report said.

The magazine said another bomb under development would produce mostly microwaves. If exploded in space, it could render useless the electronic circuitry of an enemy command centre.

Rudy Garbey, an electrical engineer from Phoenix, Arizona, was quoted as saying the microwaves from a 10-megatonne bomb detonated in space could turn every unprotected electronic circuit in a 3,200 kilometres radius into a "piece of junk."

Time said another third-generation technique is to shape bombs in such a way that their blast is focused in specific directions, as is done with conventional explosives.

Calero to testify about contra finances

WASHINGTON (AP) — A top leader of the Nicaraguan contra rebels will answer questions about where the contras got their money and how they spent it, as the congressional probe of the Iran-contra affair this week zeroes in on the rebels themselves.

Adolfo Calero, who as head of the largest contra army exercised almost exclusive control of the rebels' finances, also is expected to shed some light on Lt. Col. Oliver North's relationship with the rebel movement seeking to overthrow Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government.

Investigators are looking into whether Col. North or other U.S. officials crossed the line Congress drew in October 1984 in banning direct or indirect U.S. military assistance to the contras.

Col. North, the White House point man on Nicaragua before

Filipino rebel group admits election setback

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Communist rebels have admitted for the first time that last week's election shows most people do not support them. Also, a private agency said Monday up to three opposition hopefuls may win senate seats despite an administration landslide.

The private National Movement for Free Elections, or Namfrel, finished its unofficial tally of May 11 election Monday, but said it would not announce the findings until Tuesday.

Namfrel sources said the final tally based on reports from about 70 per cent of the precincts, showed President Corason Aquino's candidates still leading for 23 of 24 senate seats. But the sources said opposition leader Juan Ponce Enrile, the former defence minister, was gaining on administration candidates.

Mr. Enrile, fired last year following an alleged coup attempt by his followers, has accused the administration of rigging the election. Official, final returns are not expected for about two more weeks.

Christian Monsod, Namfrel's chairman, told reporters it was "statistically possible" that one or two more Grand Alliance for Democracy candidates, including

Mr. Enrile, might finish in the top 24 in the 84-member field and therefore win seats.

Namfrel figures released Sunday showed administration candidates leading for 142 of the 200 house of representatives seats against opposition and independent rivals, some of whom are pro-Aquino.

Partial but official tabulations by the commission on elections showed five opposition senate candidates in the top 24, including Mr. Enrile in the 18th position. But the commission count was based on returns from less than 13 per cent of the precincts.

During a press conference Sunday, two leaders of the outlawed rebel National Democratic Front (NDF) admitted that the results indicate the rebels lack majority support among the 56 million Filipinos.

The two, Satur Ocampo and Antonio Zumel, said they must redouble efforts to convince the public that the election was no more than "multimillion peso (dollar) gimmickry."

Rebels stepped up their propaganda efforts during the 60-day nationwide ceasefire, which expired on Feb. 8 following the collapse of peace talks.

Poll shows Gephardt top choice of Iowa Democrats

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Representative Richard Gephardt of Missouri has made strong gains since the withdrawal of Gary Hart and is the top choice of Iowa Democrats for the party's presidential nomination, according to a poll.

However, the Des Moines Sunday Register's Iowa poll also found that more than a third of the state's Democrats are undecided on which candidate to back in the crowded field.

Iowa Democrats hold their precinct caucuses next Feb. 8, the nation's first test of strength for the presidential candidates.

Mr. Gephardt has support from 24 per cent of the state's Democrats, according to the poll. Twenty-one per cent said he was their first choice and another 3 per cent were leaning toward supporting him.

In a May 5 poll, Mr. Gephardt was at 9 per cent and Mr. Hart had 56 per cent. Less than a week later, Mr. Hart dropped out of the race.

Mr. Gephardt, regarded as one of the best organised candidates in Iowa, appears to be in a position to pick up even more strength in the future, the poll indicates.

Quake hits India, Burma

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — An earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter Scale shook north eastern India on Monday, the United News of India (UNI) said.

No injuries or property damage were reported immediately, the news agency said.

It quoted the Indian Seismological Observatory in Shillong, in Meghalaya State, as saying the quake hit at 7:24 a.m. (0154 GMT) and its epicentre was about 185 kilometres south east of Shillong.

The Shillong observatory said the tremor measured 5.8 on the Richter Scale, UNI reported.

That would put it in Mizoram or Manipur states, UNI said it had reports of the tremor being

felt in the states of Mizoram, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland. The area is in the extreme north east of India, wedged between Burma and Bangladesh.

The quake also was felt in northern Burma, according to reports from the Royal Observatory in Hong Kong. The observatory estimated the quake at 5.5 on the Richter Scale.

The Richter Scale is a gauge of the energy released by an earthquake, as measured by the ground motion recorded on a seismograph. An earthquake of magnitude 5 can cause considerable damage and one measuring 6 can cause severe damage.

Dubai confirms killer's death sentence

DUBAI (R) — A Dubai court of appeals has confirmed a death sentence on an Indian carpenter convicted of killing nine Pakistanis by setting fire to their shanty. Court sources said Monday the sentence on 39-year-old Paul George Nadar, from Tamil Nadu, must now be approved by the ruler of the Gulf Emirate. The prosecution charged that Nadar, to avenge an insult, set fire to the shanty in 1985 while its inhabitants were asleep. Two women and seven children from two families died.

Riviera city to get 'thank you check'

NICE, France (AP) — The mayor of Antibes has said he had received word from the Saudi Arabian embassy that King Fahd would be sending the city a thank-you check for its hospitality. A check for 920,000 francs (\$153,300) was to be sent as a gesture of gratitude for "the warm welcome, hospitality and affection" extended by the people and officials of Antibes to the king during a recent visit. The telegram to the mayor said the money was to be used for lighting at Fort Vauban and Fort-Carre, two historic sites in the picturesque coastal town. King Fahd recently spent 15 days vacation on the Cote d'Azur.

3 fishermen cling to buoy for 5 days

PORT HEDLAND, Western Australia (R) — Three shipwrecked Australian prawn fishermen survived five days clinging to a buoy in the Indian Ocean by drinking rainwater wrung from their shirts. The three men said they swam two kilometres to the buoy, used to mark shipping lanes, after their trawler was swamped by a huge wave in rough weather off the northern coast of Western Australia last Wednesday. The three 23-year-olds were picked up by a helicopter after being spotted by a search plane shortly before the rescue effort was to be called off.

Senator backs down on Fawn Hall remark

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama (AP) — Sen. Howell Heflin says he apparently was wrong last week when he said Fawn Hall planned to testify in the Iran-contra hearings about smuggling documents in her underclothes. During comments to reporters before an address in Alabama on Saturday night, Sen. Heflin said he made the statements about Lt. Col. Oliver North's former secretary believing he had read such accounts in the media. The opposition Democrat said he made "a passing remark of what I had been informed... she had said. Obviously, she hadn't." Sen. Heflin, a member of the Senate Select Committee investigating the Iran-contra affair, told reporters that he understood Ms. Hall would testify before Congress that she gave secret materials to Col. North after carrying them out of the White House in her brassiere and other clothes. The documents would have come from the National Security Council office in which Col. North worked. "I suppose she will testify that she stuck documents in her underclothes and took them out," Sen. Heflin said Friday. He added that Ms. Hall had a "pretty good capacity to carry documents." Ms. Hall angrily denied Sen. Heflin's statements and called them sexist.

Train blast set off by fired nurse

PEKING (AP) — A train explosion that killed 12 people and injured 47 last month in north east China was set off by a male nurse who was fired from his job at a mental hospital, an official daily reported Monday. Liu Changshan blew up a passenger train carriage on April 22 as it was crossing a bridge on the Songhuajiang River near Harbin, Heilongjiang province, to seek revenge against the hospital, the English-language China Daily said. Liu, who died in the explosion, had been fired from his job on Feb. 23 because he was caught beating up mental patients, the paper quoted a Heilongjiang Daily as reporting. According to an eight-day investigation that was just completed, Liu committed suicide after he was dismissed from the hospital, a business he tried to set up went bankrupt and his girlfriend broke up with him.

Drunken soldier tried to attack candidate

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — A drunken soldier pulled a pistol on a former air force commander who is now running for president, but the candidate was not harmed, police said. A man dressed in civilian clothing stepped out of a crowd Saturday night and approached Frank Vargas Pazzos as he waited under a shelter for rain to end before making a campaign speech in a working class neighbourhood, police and witnesses said. The reports said the man knocked Vargas Pazzos' cap from his head and pulled a .32-calibre pistol and pointed it at the retired air force general, but bodyguards spotted the weapon and subdued the man. "The general was not hurt. The attacker apparently was drunk," a campaign spokesman said. The man was taken to a police station where he was identified as a private in the army corps of engineers. He was later turned over to the military police.

QE2 liner arrives in Southampton

SOUTHAMPTON, England (AP) — The newly refitted Queen Elizabeth 2 returned almost three hours late Sunday carrying passengers complaining of flooded cabins, broken beds and no heat on their weeklong cruise to the Canary Islands. A spokesman for Cunard, the vessel's owners, said the delay was due to tests on the computer-controlled engine systems. "There was no breakdown," said the spokesman, who asked not to be named. A Southampton port official not connected with Cunard said: "I understand she crawled in slowly on her starboard engine after the port engine developed a fault." The liner has suffered a string of problems since her £110-million (\$182-million) refit in Bremerhaven, West Germany. On her maiden voyage to New York earlier this month, passengers received a 40 per cent refund after complaints of poor conditions and lack of facilities.

Suggestion to breed ape-man condemned

VATICAN CITY (R) — The Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano has condemned a suggestion by an Italian anthropologist that hybrid "ape-men" could be bred through laboratory fertilisation of a chimpanzee with human semen. The newspaper, the semi-official voice of the Vatican, said in an editorial that such experiments were "a satanic attempt to destroy every presence of God in the universe, destroying his likeness, which is man." Such experiments exposed the true face of anti-humanism, "which no longer recognises the existence of absolute and unconditional moral precepts," it said. Anthropologist Brunetto Chiarelli, a professor at the University of Florence, was quoted in interviews published in the Italian press earlier this week as saying he believed ape-men could be bred to carry out menial tasks or provide transplant organs.

Two paintings fetch \$4.2m

PIACENZA, Italy (AP) — Two still-life paintings by the 16th-century Italian artist Caravaggio were sold at auction for 5.5 billion lire (\$4.23 million), a record price for an Italian auction, Italian news agencies reported. "Still Life With Pomegranate" and "Still Life With Butterflies" are attributed to the artist's early period, when he worked in Rome at the studio of Cavalier d'Arpino. The pair was bought by a Milanese notary for an unidentified client, the ANSA and AGI news agencies said. The paintings were among several other works of art, furniture and silver sold at the auction of the Scotti Castle in Vigonovo, near Piacenza in the north of Italy. Caravaggio was born Michelangelo Merisi in 1573 in Bergamo, but spent most of his life in Rome, where he received several commissions from a few powerful cardinals and Roman noble families. The argumentative painter killed a man in a ball game and was forced to flee Rome. He then worked in Naples, and Malta and died on a beach in Tuscany on his way back to Rome in 1610.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A1073 ♣532 ♠7 ♠A862
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
3 ♣ 3 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A874 ♣J952 ♣83 ♠AK3
The bidding has proceeded:
South East North East
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠
What action do you take?
- Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠83 ♣KQ6 ♠AJ102 ♠Q984
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q7 ♣95 ♠K1063 ♠QJ85
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 NT ?
What action do you take?
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AJ7 ♣K8 ♠J72 ♠AQ865
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass
What action do you take?
- Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ89 ♣KJ642 ♠A ♠83
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
What action do you take?